OBSERVATIONS

CONCERNING

THE PREVENTION AND CURE

OF THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

INTENDED

To guard the Ignorant and Unwary againſt the baneful Effects of that inſidious Malady.

WITH AN

APPENDIX,

Containing a Liſt of the moſt approved Medicines now uſed in the Cure of this Diſorder, alſo their Doſes, Manner of Application, &c.

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Stultorum incurata pudor malus ulcera celat.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

AS the Author of the following Pages has been long convinced that the office of a Mother, however neglected, is the moſt important in human life, he intends ſpeedily to publiſh a Short Treatiſe, concerning *The Duties and Offices of a Mother.*

New Store-ſtreet,
Bedford Square.

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PREFACE.

THE rapid ſale of a numerous edition of this book ſhews how much ſuch aids are wanted, and how ardently they are ſought after by the Public. This, indeed, is generally the caſe with works which have utility for their object. Though I have no objection to books of amuſement, yet I am determined never to trouble the world with any thing but what I think will be of general uſe.

As this publication has greatly increaſed the number of my patients of a certain deſcription, I have been farther confirmed in the belief of the doctrines contained in the following pages, nor have I found it neceſſary to retract one article of them, which I

certainly ſhould have done, had they appeared unfounded. I have taken much pains to find any well-authenticated caſe where the lues venerea had been cured without the uſe of mercury; but all my inquiries have proved unſucceſsful. It is of no avail to ſay that ſymptoms will diſappear under the uſe of other medicines, which ſeemed to reſiſt the powers of mercury. This I meet with every day under the uſe of the bark, or of butter-milk: but it does not follow that either bark or butter-milk will cure the lues venerea.

It is often proper that patients ſhould leave off the uſe of mercury for ſome time, though ſymptoms of the venereal diſeaſe ſtill remain. In this caſe the patient, thinking himſelf not cured, runs to the quack, who throws in his noſtrum. The diſeaſe diſappears, and the quack gets the credit, though the ſame thing happens every day where no medicine is adminiſtered. I have reaſon to believe that the cures of lues venerea, ſaid to be performed without mercury, are generally done in this way.

There is not a more common error than attributing the cure to the laſt medicine which had

had been adminiſtered to the patient. Yet this miſtake runs through the whole practice of phyſic; and, among the leſs enlightened part of mankind, it gives credit to many medicines which do not deſerve any. Where mercury has been previouſly adminiſtered, any thing may get the credit of the cure. A medicine to deſerve it, ought to be given from the firſt appearance of the diſorder, and continued till the cure is completed. Till I can find ſome well-authenticated inſtances of this, I muſt beg leave to ſuſpend my belief of the lues venerea being cured without mercury.

No man will decry the powers of mercury who knows them. It is the moſt extenſively uſeful article of the whole *materia medica*; and I ſhould have a very contemptible opinion of the phyſician, who ſaid he could practiſe without it. That mercury may ſometimes do hurt nobody will deny, who knows under what circumſtances it is generally adminiſtered. If a man takes a doſe of ſalts, he will keep the houſe at leaſt for a part of the day, if not the whole; yet thouſands are daily traverſing the ſtreets of London through dirt,

and wind, and rain, with their bodies fully charged with mercury.

The ſame language that is now held with reſpect to mercury, has been uſed with regard to every active medicine with which I am acquainted. I remember ſince the bark was accuſed of lying in the bones, and occaſioning achs, pains, &c. all of which were afterwards found to ariſe from the bark having been uſed too ſparingly. This is preciſely the caſe with regard to mercury. The ills which ignorance attributes to the free uſe of that medicine are chiefly chargeable to its being uſed too ſparingly: and I think, with Dr. Ruſh, that the time is not far diſtant when people will be no more afraid to uſe mercury than bark, or any other drug.

I have aſſerted that mercury may be taken for any length of time without curing the venereal diſeaſe, and am ſorry to add, that too many woful proofs of this truth have of late come under my eye. Since the following pages were firſt publiſhed, I have had patients from every part of England, and not a few from abroad, who had been taking mercury

from

from one to ſeven years, yet were not cured. What to ſome medical ſcribblers may ſeem ſtrange, all theſe patients have either been cured, or are in the way of being ſo, by the ſole powers of mercury.

If men uſe mercury improperly, and the patient is not cured, ſurely the medicine ought not to be blamed. I can, for my own part, affirm, that I never ſaw mercury fail, when properly adminiſtered, unleſs when it was the patient's fault. Conſidering how ſeldom patients under the uſe of mercury do juſtice to the medicine, it is wonderful that ſucceſs ſhould ſo often attend it, and that ill conſequences ſhould ſo ſeldom occur. There is not in the whole *materia medica* any thing more active than mercury; yet no medicine is taken with ſo little precaution.

Among the cauſes of the failure of mercury I had mentioned the timid practice of every now and then carrying it out of the body by purges. If there is any myſtery in the adminiſtration of mercury, it lies in detaining it in the body till it has conquered the enemy. A man may take mercury twenty years,

years, and the poiſon all the while lodge in the ſyſtem; but I am inclined to think it will never be one year there if the antidote is properly adminiſtered. Where the ſyſtem was ſufficiently ſaturated with mercury, and kept ſo for a due length of time, I never knew the cure to fail. Few practitioners can give a more decided opinion on this ſubject than myſelf, as a day ſeldom paſſes on which I do not ſee this diſorder in a variety of ſhapes; yet I can aver, with the ſtricteſt regard to truth, that the ſpecific never has diſappointed me.

Ignorance, with regard to medicine, tends to render men the dupes of empirics. Where people know nothing, they believe every thing. Thus they become the eaſy prey of thoſe ſwarms of quacks who, like vermin, feed on the ignorant and unwary. The credulity of this country, with reſpect to quacks, is unbounded: they ſwallow all their lies; and the more improbable their ſtories are, they like them the better. Poſterity will not believe that in the eighteenth century men amaſſed fortunes in London by only pointing their fingers at their patients; or, what is ſtill more

more extraordinary, by what they call *treating* them at a diſtance.

The late Dr. Gregory, of candid memory, uſed to ſay that the quack did not tell half ſo many lies for himſelf as his patients told for him. This is founded in human nature. Men will vindicate their own conduct, and often even at the expence of truth. I have met a man coming from the Manſion Houſe, where he had been carried by a quack to make oath, before the Lord Mayor, that he was cured of what I knew to be an incurable diſeaſe. I do not ſay this man was perjured. His pain might have been ſuſpended, and he might believe himſelf cured: but was ſoon undeceived; for he died in a few days, and, in all probability, his death was accelerated by the lullabies he had taken.

Magiſtrates ought to be extremely cautious how they adminiſter oaths to people in favour of quack medicines. The quack himſelf is generally perjured in ſwearing that the medicine was his own invention; and he can at any time find needy men who, to get a morſel of bread, will ſwear to cures that never were

were performed. Nay, authors are to be found baſe enough to write books in ſupport of any noſtrum that quacks chuſe to vend, provided they are well paid for their labour.

Should this tract tend, in any meaſure, to relieve the ſufferers under the lues venerea, or to reſcue them from the hands of daring empirics, at once the diſgrace of England, and the reproach of medicine, I ſhall feel myſelf highly gratified.

PRELIMINARY

PRELIMINARY

OBSERVATIONS.

THE following pages were written in profecution of my plan for rendering medicine more extenſively beneficial to mankind. They treat of a diſeaſe which, at once, tends to poiſon the ſprings of happineſs, and to debaſe the human race. To ſhew men how far it is in their own power, by due care and attention, to prevent its deſtructive influence, is the profeſſed deſign of the enſuing treatiſe. How far I have ſucceeded in the execution of this deſign muſt be left for others to determine; but if theſe hints ſhould in any meaſure conduce to put the young and unwary on their guard againſt the direful conſequences of this

 inſidious

inſidious malady, I ſhall think my time and attention have been well beſtowed.

Many reaſons have induced me to ſelect the Venereal Diſeaſe as the ſubject of a ſeparate treatiſe. It is one of thoſe complaints which, for the patient's peace and happineſs, he often finds it neceſſary to conceal; and, fortunately for him, this, by due care, may generally be effected. Beſides, other diſeaſes are often removed by the efforts of nature, or diſappear of their own accord; but in the lues venerea, nature cannot effect a cure. A good conſtitution is doubtleſs in favour of the patient, but no conſtitution can conquer the virulence of this poiſon. Whoever truſts to that will be diſappointed. As a ſpecific remedy is diſcovered, its properties ought ſurely to be made known to the public. Since the powers of the Bark were underſtood by all, every one can cure an ague; yet this diſeaſe proves often more obſtinate than a confirmed pox.

Unfortunately for thoſe who labour under the venereal diſeaſe, its treatment has fallen into bad hands. Not only Quacks of all deſcriptions undertake to cure it; but every idle

idle fellow who does not chuſe to follow ſome uſeful employment, ſets up for doctor, aſſumes ſome well known name, and adverti-ſes an infallible remedy for the venereal diſeaſe. The apothecary's man, or even the apothecary's man's man, often paſſes for an adept in curing this malady. Nor is it uncommon for the fellow who bruſhed the ſurgeon's coat, or cleaned his ſhop, to ſtep into his maſter's ſhoes, and ſometimes into his chariot, by his pretended ſkill in curing the lues venerea. Theſe noſtrum-mongers not only ſell the ſame medicines to all their patients, however widely their ſymptoms may differ; but, unfortunately for them, the noſtrum often does not contain a ſingle grain of what we know to be abſolutely neceſſary for their cure.

The credulity of mankind in regard to medicine is truly aſtoniſhing. Even thoſe who affect to be ſceptical in other matters are the eaſy dupes of every pretender to a ſecret medicine: They will neglect the advice of the moſt ſkilful phyſician, and run after the ignorant quack, becauſe he promiſes them a ſudden cure; but, alas! this ſudden cure, nine

out of ten, turns out to be no cure at all, and the diſeaſe is by this means trifled with, till it becomes altogether incurable.

The moſt frequent dupes to quackery are the young and unwary. They credit the contents of every puff that is put into their hands as they walk the ſtreets, and ſwallow with eagerneſs the drugs it recommends. I would beg leave juſt to hint to ſuch inexperienced youths, that the advertiſing quack, is, ten to one, more ignorant of medicine than themſelves, that his ſole aim is to take their money, and when he has got that, he cares no more for the patient. I am warranted to ſay this from daily obſervation, and am ſorry to add, that too many, from woeful experience, know it to be true. So great however is the influence of quackery over the young mind, that I have ſeen one of thoſe unfledged gentlemen, while I was writing a preſcription for him, take up a newſpaper, and, caſting his eye on an advertiſement, which promiſed to do in a few days what I had told him would require weeks, if not months, to complete, put my preſcription in his pocket, and haſte away to the promiſer of quick cures.

No

No great ſkill is neceſſary to dry up a chancre, ſo as to make it appear healed in a few days. This they call curing the pox; but, if ever the pox exiſted, it cannot be cured in this manner. I know of numbers, however, who avow this as their common practice. Need any one be ſurpriſed to find obſtinate ulcers, and carious bones as the conſequence? The practitioner, whoſe ſole object is to touch the patient's money, will patch him up, and get him off his hands as ſoon as he can. Let all who wiſh to preſerve their conſtitution beware of ſuch cures.

Some authors would perſuade us that, in whatever ſhape the venereal diſeaſe appears, it never fails to do great injury to the conſtitution. I grant that, in ſome conſtitutions, this may be true, but am inclined to think, that the miſchief done by the venereal diſeaſe, is often owing to wrong regimen, and improper treatment. The proportion of thoſe who are able to obtain good advice, and obſerve a proper regimen, does not amount to one in a hundred. All the reſt muſt put up with ſuch advice as they can obtain, and follow the beſt regimen that their circumſtances will permit.

mit. By far the greater part are obliged to follow their neceſſary employments, however hurtful they may be, during the whole time they are taking the medicine.

It is eaſy to ſay, that every man, afflicted with the venereal diſeaſe, ought to have recourſe to the beſt advice; but how is he to obtain it? The beſt advice is not eaſily purchaſed. Beſides, men afflicted with the venereal diſeaſe are often in ſituations where no medical aſſiſtance of any kind can be had. Theſe are the men for whom the following obſervations were thrown together. They are not deſigned to ſuperſede the phyſician, but, in ſome meaſure, to ſupply his place where he cannot be had; and to prevent thoſe who are not able to employ him, from becoming the prey of ignorance and avarice.

It is a juſt obſervation, that there is a greater difference between a good phyſician and a bad one, than between a good phyſician and none. When I ſay a bad one, I mean the ſelf-created doctor, who, while he knows nothing, undertakes every thing. A man of common underſtanding, with the aſſiſtance of books, will conduct his own cure better than

than many of thoſe who make a trade of curing the lues venerea. Nor is it a matter of ſmall importance for a man to know when he is properly treated. It is on the ignorance of the patient that the Charlatan preſumes. He knows there is no danger of detection while the patient is taught to dread, even the leaſt dip, in medical knowledge.

A man ſhould have at leaſt as much information about this malady as to know when he has got it. Many have their pockets picked, by taking medicines for the diſeaſe, who never had it; while others are ſuffered to linger under the complaint for years, being all the while told that they had it not. I lately ſaw a remarkable inſtance of the latter in a young man, who applied to me to know whether or not he had the malady, as his medical attendant had told him it was no ſuch thing. I never ſaw the lues more ſtrongly marked, and adviſed him immediately to begin a courſe of mercury, which he did; but not being able to obſerve a ſtrict regimen, it was ten months before he was well, though his mouth was kept ſore during moſt of the time.

If men may fall into ſuch hands, it is ſurely high time that they were taught, at leaſt, to know the ſymptoms of this too common malady. To talk of making all men phyſicians, is the extreme of folly. Surely the man who writes a catechiſm does not intend to qualify his readers for becoming doctors in divinity; yet ſuch is the folly of men, or rather the prejudice of the faculty, that whoever attempts to throw a little light on the public mind, with regard to diſeaſes, is immediately branded with the intention of making every man a phyſician. Would to God that phyſicians were ſo eaſily made! To be a phyſician is the buſineſs of a man's life, and the candid will confeſs that, to the laſt, he has ſtill much to learn.

It is often a difficult matter, in the cure of this diſeaſe, to perſuade patients to take mercury for a ſufficient length of time. The wiſh to be ſoon well is natural, but it is productive of much miſchief. The victims to quick cures are innumerable: Yet men will run after thoſe who promiſe them, though to their own deſtruction. Few days paſs in which I do not ſee inſtances of the danger ariſing from imperfect cures of the lues venerea;

nerea; and I have reaſon to believe, that thoſe which are not ſeen, nor regarded, are ſtill more numerous.

Nor is the difficulty much leſs in getting men to take mercury in ſufficient doſes. Mercury may be taken for any length of time, but if it is not adminiſtered in ſuch quantities as to produce ſufficient effects on the ſyſtem, it will not ſubdue the poiſon. This, however, is not an eaſy matter to eſtimate. The difference of conſtitutions is ſuch, that two perſons can hardly be treated exactly in the ſame way, and our conduct muſt be regulated chiefly by its effects.

Much has been ſaid in favour of the alterative mode of adminiſtering mercury; and it were greatly to be wiſhed, that it could be depended on for completing the cure; but with that view I dare not recommend it. No doubt it may ſucceed in certain caſes, but it is not to be truſted as a general mode of treatment. When the conſtitution is too irritable to bear even the ſlighteſt degree of ſalivation, the mercury may produce its effects taken as an alterative. It may likewiſe be proper after a liberal uſe of mercury, when

it is deemed neceſſary to keep up the mercurial action on the ſyſtem, to adminiſter it in this manner.

It would be eaſy to bring forward a number of caſes to prove the danger of truſting to the alterative method of cure; but the following ſhall ſuffice:

Some years ago a merchant from North America put himſelf under my care, for what the phyſician, to whom he firſt applied, had treated as a cancer in the noſe. I ſuſpected the caſe to be venereal, and, from the patient's own account of the matter, there remained no doubt of it. Before he left America, he had taken mercury for above twelve months, and all the while the diſeaſe was preying upon the noſe, till it had eat away both the *alæ naſi*, as they are called, occaſioned an amazing degree of pain, and rendered him a ſhocking ſpectacle.

On looking over his apothecary's bill, I could perceive that the gentleman had uſed a ſufficient quantity of mercury to have performed a cure, provided it had been taken in a fourth part of the time. Indeed the event proved the truth of this obſervation. I put him on a courſe of mercury and diet drink, confined him

to

to the houſe, and in leſs than two months his noſe was perfectly healed, and continues ſo to this day. The deformity, however, for which he has to thank his American doctor, muſt deſcend with him to the grave.

About four months ago one of thoſe unhappy females, who often contract the lues venerea, but are ſeldom thoroughly cured, applied to me for a ſore leg. The ſore was a little above the ancle, had been long open, and ſhewed no diſpoſition to heal. She ſaid ſhe believed it was owing to an ill-cured pox, and added that ſhe had been taking mercury, as an alterative, for upwards of twelve months, without the ſmalleſt benefit. As I was entirely of her way of thinking, I adviſed her to take the corroſive ſublimate of mercury, in ſuch doſes as to keep her mouth ſore for ſeveral weeks, and likewiſe to waſh the ſore frequently with the ſolution of ſublimate, as ſtrong as ſhe could eaſily bear it. I was agreeably ſurpriſed to ſee her come back within ſix weeks, to return me thanks for the cure, with her leg perfectly healed, and in all other reſpects well. I have been long in the habit of treating theſe ſores, which I ſuppoſed to be venereal, with the

ſublimate, and have ſeldom been diſappointed in its effects.

The next caſe that I ſhall mention is, that of a gentleman reſident in London, who had every opportunity of taking the very beſt advice, yet followed the worſt. He thought he could follow his buſineſs, and take mercury at the ſame time with ſafety and effect. This he tried for a ſeries of years, his noſe all the while ſuffering a gradual diminution. This was imputed to ſome other cauſe, till at length that organ totally diſappeared. He then, too late, applied to an eminent practitioner in that line, who told him he had never taken the medicine properly; put him under a courſe of mercury, confined him to the houſe for ſome months, and made a complete cure of him. He now enjoys the bleſſing of perfect health, if health in ſuch a mangled condition can be called a bleſſing, or deemed worth the enjoying.

After a very liberal adminiſtration of mercury there will often remain ſome marks of the diſorder. In this caſe, if the alterative method is purſued, theſe will diſappear, and this mode of treatment get the credit of the cure, while it was wholly owing to the mercury previouſly

viouſly adminiſtered. Whatever may happen in ſlight degrees of infection, or where the ſyſtem has been previouſly impregnated with mercury, I would not adviſe any one who has got a confirmed pox to truſt his cure ſolely to the alterative mode of adminiſtering mercury; otherwiſe he may have cauſe to regret the injuries done to his conſtitution, when it is too late to repair them *.

Many retard their cure, and ſometimes even prevent it, by leaving off the mercury as ſoon as it affects the mouth, and taking opening medicines to carry it out of the body. In fact the mercury is too apt to run off by ſtool, and never has its full effect on the ſyſtem when carried off too quickly, either by the bowels or

* The ease with which some people treat these matters, where life is concerned, is to me astonishing. A young gentleman lately applied to me, who was all over covered with venereal blotches. He had been treated on the alterative plan for a considerable time, but without effect. I changed the mode of treatment, and he was cured in about two months. While under my care he met his old doctor, as he was pleased to call him, and told him what I was doing. He said I would make his mouth stink like the devil, so that he could not go into genteel company. This is delicacy with a vengeance! A man, rather than have a sore mouth for a few weeks, is to be eaten up with the lues venerea; yet there are men who swallow these doctrines, because they coincide with their own wishes.

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the mouth. The great art in adminiſtering mercury is to regulate the doſe in ſuch a manner as to keep the ſyſtem fully ſaturated, without forcing it off by any of the outlets. This may generally be done by gradually increaſing the doſe, till the mouth is ſore, and then keeping it ſo by ſmaller doſes.

There is no diſeaſe where the patient is ſo much inclined to impoſe on the phyſician as in this. He will ſeldom tell the truth, and, perhaps, never the whole truth; but what is ſtill worſe, he ſeldom implicitly follows the doctor's directions, with regard either to regimen or medicines. It is indeed to be regretted that many patients cannot obſerve a proper regimen; but it is always in their power to be honeſt, and not impoſe on the doctor by throwing one half of their medicines away, while he thinks they have taken the whole. This, inſtead of cheating the doctor, is cheating themſelves; and, if they are diſappointed of a cure, they certainly deſerve it. The danger of doing too much is not leſs than of doing too little. A patient, who wiſhes for a ſpeedy cure, will often take a double or treble doſe of the medicine preſcribed to him. Such a man may eſcape,

eſcape; but, by this conduct, he never fails to endanger his life.

Some patients think it is the buſineſs of the doctor to find out their diſorders, without being told any thing about them. They treat phyſicians as conjurors, and think they need no information. A patient, who wiſhes for a cure, cannot be too open and explicit with his doctor. He should not only impart every circumſtance he knows concerning his diſeaſe, but follow the doctor's directions, as far is it lies in his power.

Few things are more difficult than to aſcertain the time when the patient is completely cured. It is more a matter of obſervation than of caloulation. The quantity of mercury taken, the time the patient has uſed it, and the preparation he took, muſt all be conſidered; but they will not aſcertain the point. Even the diſappearing of the ſymptoms is fallacious, as they will ſometimes return; eſpecially where the patient's habit leans to the ſcrofulous or ſcorbutic. The ſafeſt method is always to continue the medicine for ſome time after the ſymptoms have diſappeared; unleſs in caſes where the mercurial action has ceaſ-

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ed, or the patient's ſtrength is exhauſted; when he muſt be put on a courſe of tonic medicines, with nouriſhing diet, and allowed the benefit of country air, and ſea-bathing if neceſſary.

Many abſurd opinions ſtill prevail concerning this diſeaſe, which lead to very improper conduct. Such opinions generally die away as the public mind becomes more enlightened; but as that is by no means the caſe with regard to medicine, we ſhall mention a few of them, only to ſhew how little foundation they have either in reaſon or common ſenſe.

One of the moſt abſurd notions that ever entered the mind of man is, that a diſeaſe may be cured by communicating it to another. Yet in moſt countries this has been believed, and is at preſent in this, with regard to the venereal diſorder. We might as well ſuppoſe that a mad dog, by biting one that had not the diſeaſe, would receive a cure; or, that the wretch expiring under the plague, would recover by communicating the diſeaſe to thoſe around him.

It would be difficult to ſay whether an attempt to obtain a cure by communicating the diſeaſe to another, is more wicked or abſurd. Certain it is, however, that under this impreſ-

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ſion, innocence is betrayed, and loathſome diſeaſes are diſſeminated, without the poſſibility of any advantage being derived from it. On this falſe idea infants are abuſed, and the moſt flagitious crimes perpetrated to remove what will yield only to the proper antidote; and, what ſtill tends to aggravate the crime, this antidote is known to all, and is ſo eaſily purchaſed, that all may obtain it.

Nor is the idea of retaliation leſs wicked. Becauſe a worthleſs woman has communicated the diſeaſe to a diſſipated man, is he entitled to transfer it to as many as he can? The perſon who acts on this principle may as well alledge that, becauſe he has been robbed on the highway, he has a right to make repriſals, by taking every man's money he meets. The law would tell him otherwiſe; and it is pity there ſhould not be a law to puniſh the unprincipled libertine, who makes it his boaſt that, by way of retaliation, he has communicated the diſeaſe to as many women as he poſſibly could.

This conduct is not only baſe, but criminal. The man who knowingly communicates a diſeaſe to another, which might prove fatal, cannot, in my opinion, be conſidered in any other light

than that of a murderer. Nor is the crime much leſs where the conſtitution is ruined. A perſon had better be killed at once, than left to drag out a life of pain and miſery under the influence of a loathſome diſeaſe.

The man who ſtops another on the highway, takes a trifle from him, and puts him in fear of his life, is hanged; while the marauder on the public health eſcapes with impunity, is looked upon as a man of gallantry, and makes ſport of that which proves fatal to another. But ſporting with diſeaſe is ſporting with human life, a thing of the moſt ſerious nature, though too little regarded either by thoſe who communicate this malady to others, or by many of thoſe who pretend to cure it.

As regular tracts on this ſubject abound, I have contented myſelf with throwing together ſome looſe obſervations, chiefly by way of caution, without much attention to compoſition or arrangement. Indeed the whole was the amuſement of ſome leiſure hours of an evening, when I thought my time might be worſe employed, than in furniſhing ſuch hints to my readers as I have often had cauſe to wiſh my patients had been acquainted with.

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Though a ſlight degree of knowledge will not make a man a phyſician, it may teach him to know when he has occaſion for one; and, what is of no leſs importance, it will inform him when he has fallen into bad hands: nor will any one queſtion its utility, where no regular aſſiſtance of any kind can be obtained.

Every attempt at theory has been carefully avoided, as it is apt to miſlead the weak mind, and draw off the attention from facts, the knowledge of which is our ſureſt guide in the cure of diſeaſes. The ſpeculative phyſician may amuſe himſelf with plauſible theories, and even believe that he can cure all diſeaſes by his favourite ſyſtem; but, when he comes to real practice, he will find that his art can only be learned at the patient's bed-ſide. The knowledge of diſeaſes is acquired, like that of men, by obſervation. Reading, no doubt, has its uſe, but it will never make a phyſician, any more than it will an expert mechanic, or a complete ſeaman. I would rather truſt myſelf in the hands of an experienced nurſe, than of a theoretical phyſician. I have known more inſtances than one of a phyſician falling a ſacrifice to his own theory.

Although my motive in publiſhing the following tract is to leſſen the ſum of human evils; yet I lay my account with all the obloquy and abuſe that the faculty, and their emiſſaries, can beſtow on me. I have experienced a plentiful ſhare of it already, and this attempt is not likely to leſſen their malice, or conciliate their eſteem. All who cannot, or dare not, think for themſelves, are ſure to be the avowed enemies of the author who entertains more liberal ideas than thoſe of his cotemporaries: while the ſordid part, who think their trade in danger, allow him no quarter. Little do theſe malevolent ſpirits know, that their conduct is the direct way to eſtabliſh what they wiſh to ſuppreſs. Uſeful works will force their way in ſpite of all oppoſition, and are often aided by it.

The man who attempts any thing out of the common road, has not only the ignorant and intereſted to contend with, but alſo the prejudices of paſt ages to overcome. Men are tenacious of eſtabliſhed opinions, and quit with reluctance the paths in which they have been accuſtomed to tread. The moſt abſurb cuſtoms gain a ſanction from time; and it is deemed

deemed a kind of ſacrilege to attempt to overturn them. In this predicament ſtands medicine at preſent; and the author, who endeavours to free it from trammels, and extend its utility, is ſure to create an hoſt of foes.

In other branches of ſcience men conſider themſelves as entitled to have an opinion. But whoever has dared to think for himſelf, in matters relating to health, and was not of the faculty, has been looked upon as an intruder, and held up to ridicule. Even in divinity ſome excellent books have been written by laymen; but phyſic is ſtill engroſſed by the faculty, and has ſucceeded accordingly. While the ſcience is confined to a ſet of men who live by it as a trade, it never will be on a liberal footing. The little arts uſed to diſguiſe and conceal it, only render it ſuſpicious, and, inſtead of gaining reſpect to its profeſſors, ſerve to hold them up to contempt. While phyſicians affect myſtery, they are fair game for men of wit, and their art will continue to be the ſtanding butt of ridicule and burleſque.

To bring medicine out of the ſchools, to lay open its hidden treaſures, and to teach men how to make a proper uſe of them, have been reſerved

reſerved for the preſent age. Something indeed has been done, but much ſtill remains undone; and, in all probability, many years will elapſe before mankind in general become acquainted with the extenſive utility of the medical art. Legiſlators have not availed themſelves of its uſe, becauſe they did not know it; and thoſe who ſhould have taught them, *have taken away the key of knowledge* *. Profeſſional men have been afraid to deviate from the paths of their predeceſſors, leſt they ſhould draw cenſure upon themſelves, and incur the hatred and reſentment of their cotemporaries.

Thoſe who have attempted to extend the benefits of medicine to mankind, have been few in number, and ill requited for their labour. This, however, ſhall not diſcourage me from endeavouring to render medicine more extenſively uſeful. While I entertain a full perſuaſion, that men may derive many and ſolid benefits from a more general acquaintance with medicine, I ſhall never ceaſe to give

* A code of laws for the preservation of health, properly digested, and duly executed, would be of more use to mankind than all the efforts of the faculty.

them

them all the information in my power, both with regard to the prevention and cure of diſeaſes. I know the conſequence will be freſh torrents of abuſe from the faculty, but I am prepared for the worſt they can do. While the reſt of mankind are on my ſide, I can laugh at the malice, and deſpiſe the reſentment of the faculty.

After the death of my worthy friend and collegiate, the late Dr. John Gregory, of Edinburgh, I conſidered myſelf, Dr. Tiſſot excepted, as the ſole labourer in this vineyard. Dr. Gregory often told me that he and I entertained the ſame ſentiments with regard to the emancipation of medicine, and that we ought to ſtand by and ſupport one another. But, alas! he fell, to the loſs of medicine and of mankind, and I was left to combat the whole phalanx of phyſic. This was my opinion till a late publication undeceived me, and proved that liberality of ſentiment, even in phyſic, is not confined to any particular ſpot of the globe.

That my old ſchool-fellow, Dr. Ruſh, of Philadelphia, has the ſame liberal ſentiments concerning medicine as I entertain, is evident from his late publication on the epidemical

fever

fever which committed ſuch ravages in that city. In this treatiſe, the doctor not only ſhews his liberality of thinking in medical matters, but alſo his benevolent wiſhes for the whole human race. In proof of this I ſhall take the liberty of making a few extracts from a work entitled, "An Account of the bilious remitting Yellow Fever, as it appeared in the City of Philadelphia, in the Year 1793, by BENJAMIN RUSH, M. D."—

"The hiſtory of the yellow fever in the Weſt-Indies proves the advantage of truſting patients to their own judgment. Dr. Lind has remarked that a greater number of ſailors, who had no phyſicians, recovered from the fever, than of thoſe who had the beſt medical aſſiſtance. The freſh air of the deck of a ſhip, a purge of ſalt water, and the free uſe of cold water, probably triumphed over the julaps of the phyſicians.

"By committing the care of this and other peſtilential diſeaſes to the people, all theſe circumſtances, which prevented the univerſal ſucceſs of purging and bleeding in our late epidemic, will have no operation. The fever will be mild in moſt caſes; for all will prepare themſelves

themſelves to receive it by a vegetable diet, and by moderate evacuations. The remedies will be uſed the moment the diſeaſe is felt, or even ſeen, and the contagion generated by it, will be feeble, and propagated only to a ſmall diſtance from ſuch patients. There will then be no diſputes among the phyſicians, about the nature of the diſeaſe, to diſtract the public mind, as they will ſeldom be conſulted in it.

"They have narrow conceptions, not only of the divine goodneſs, but of the gradual progreſs of knowledge, who ſuppoſe that all peſtilential diſeaſes ſhall not, like the ſmall pox, ſooner or later, ceaſe to be the ſcourge and terror of mankind.

"For a long while air, water, and even the light of the ſun, were dealt out by phyſicians to their patients with a ſparing hand. They poſſeſſed for ſeveral centuries the ſame monopoly over many artificial remedies. But a new order of things is riſing in medicine, as well as in government. Air, water, and light, are taken without the advice of a phyſician, and bark and laudanum are now preſcribed every-where by nurſes and miſtreſſes of families with ſafety and advantage. Human rea-

ſon cannot be ſtationary on theſe ſubjects. The time muſt, and will come, when, in addition to the above remedies, the general uſe of calomel, jalap, and the lancet, ſhall be conſidered among the moſt eſſential articles of the knowledge and rights of men.

" It is no more neceſſary that a patient ſhould be ignorant of the medicine he takes to be cured by it, than that the buſineſs of government ſhould be conducted with ſecrecy in order to inſure obedience to juſt laws. Much leſs is it neceſſary that the means of life ſhould be preſcribed in a dead language, or dictated with the ſolemn pomp of a necromancer. The effects of impoſture in every thing are, like the artificial health, produced by the uſe of ardent ſpirits. Its vigour is temporary, and is always followed by miſery and death.

" There are many things which are now familiar to women and children, which were known a century ago only to a few men who lived in cloſets, and were diſtinguiſhed by the name of philoſophers.

" We teach a hundred things in our ſchools leſs uſeful, and many things more difficult, than

than the knowledge that would be neceſſary to cure a yellow fever or the plague.

" I would as ſoon believe that Ratifia was intended, by the Author of nature, to be the only drink of man, inſtead of water, as believe that the knowledge of what relates to the health and lives of a whole city, or nation, ſhould be confined to one, and that a ſmall or priviledged order of men. But what have phyſicians, what have univerſities or medical ſocieties done, after the labours and ſtudies of many centuries, towards leſſening the mortality of peſtilential fevers? They have either copied or contradicted each other in all their publications. Plagues and malignant fevers are ſtill leagued with war and famine in their ravages upon human life.

" Botallus in France, and Sydenham in England, it is true, long ago uſed the proper remedies for thoſe diſorders with univerſal ſucceſs; but they were unable to introduce them into general practice. The reaſon is obvious. They recommended them in their writings only to phyſicians. At the expence of an immenſe load of obloquy, I have addreſſed my publications to the people. The appeal, though ha-

zardous in the preſent ſtate of general knowledge in medicine, has ſucceeded. The citizens of Philadelphia are delivered from their fears of copious evacuatious, of cold air, and cold water, and above all of a ſore mouth from mercury, in the cure of the yellow fever; and the pride and formalities of medicine, as far as they relate to this diſeaſe, are now as completely diſcarded, in our city, as the deceptions of witchcraft were above a century ago."

What Dr. Ruſh thinks a bold meaſure at this time, I undertook above thirty years ago, and have ever ſince been the butt of medical malice. The period is not yet arrived when medical publications may be addreſſed to the people with impunity. The ſame ſpirit of perſecution has been excited againſt Dr. Ruſh beyond the Atlantic ocean, which I have experienced on this ſide of it. In all probability ſome ages will elapſe before phyſicians can be convinced that their art will never be truly honourable, nor extenſively uſeful, till its doctrines are laid open, and candidly ſubmitted to the examination of all men. While diſguiſe of any kind is practiſed, quackery will prevail, and medicine will be little better than a piece of mummery.

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There is not a greater miſtake than to ſuppoſe that diffuſing medical knowledge encourages quackery. Quackery is founded on ignorance. The man who writes a medical preſcription, couched in myſtical characters and in an unknown tongue, countenances quackery, the very exiſtence of which depends on diſguiſe. If the faculty wiſh to ſuppreſs theſe peſts of ſociety, the advertiſing quacks, they muſt lay aſide all manner of diſguiſe, and act like honeſt men. While quacks, and ignorant retainers to phyſic, engroſs the largeſt ſhare of the practice, medicine will not be a bleſſing to mankind; but this will always be the caſe till men become ſo enlightened in medicine, as to be able to diſtinguiſh between the real phyſician, and the mere pretender.

As my former publication has been garbled, and ſerved up in a variety of forms, I make no doubt but this will ſhare the ſame fate. It is my duty therefore to inform the public, that no medical book, bearing my name, except this, and the Domeſtic Medicine, printed by Mr. Strahan, of London, is genuine. This caution is the more neceſſary, as the ſize, type, paper, title, and matter of my book have been ſo cloſely

imitated, that whole ſpurious editions have been ſold.

Men have been emboldened to commit theſe frauds, from a perſuaſion that I was dead. A report to this purpoſe was circulated, by the faculty, ſoon after the publication of my book; no doubt with a view to hurt my practice. It had a tendency, however, to promote the ſale of the book *, and has been to me a perpetual ſource of amuſement. I have ſeldom gone into mixed company without hearing many things which never could have reached the ears of an author ſuppoſed to be alive. This will enable me to tell the faculty many things they little think I know; and, by-and-by, I ſhall tender them ſome wholeſome ADVICE, without a fee. At preſent I ſhall content myſelf with giving them one hint, which is, to adhere a little more cloſely to truth. The miſrepreſentations which have been circulated concerning the Domeſtic Medicine and its author, would fill a folio volume; and, what to ſome will appear ſurpriſing, it conſiſts with his knowledge, that, by theſe miſrepreſentations, even Royal Ears have been abuſed.

* The works of dead authors are generally more esteemed than those of the living.

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I am ſorry to obſerve, that of all thoſe who have attempted to imitate my book, no one has been ſo fortunate as to improve upon it. This, however, I conſider as very practicable. It was a juvenile performance, and is, in many things, defective. Theſe defects I have, from time to time, endeavoured to ſupply, as the frequent editions afforded me opportunities. But, as the book is now become too bulky to admit of any farther additions, they muſt appear in a ſeparate volume *.

As medical treaſures of immenſe value ſtill lie concealed from the public eye, it is my ſupreme wiſh to bring them to light, for the benefit of my fellow-men. Should I live to accompliſh this important purpoſe, I hope it will be thought that I have not lived altogether in vain. If mankind is benefited, my end will be anſwered. The faculty may then vent their ſpleen in what manner they pleaſe. Their cenſure will always conſtitute my higheſt praiſe.

* I intend, as ſoon as leiſure will permit, to publiſh a ſecond volume of the Domeſtic Medicine, by way of Appendix. This, beſide many new articles, will contain the practical obſervations of above thirty years, which have elapſed ſince the firſt part was written. When that is completed, I hope it will render the work not altogether unworthy of the favourable reception with which it has been honoured by the public.

INTRODUCTION.

THE venereal diſeaſe has for many years proved the ſcourge of Europe. When and how it was introduced into this part of the globe, are queſtions of very little importance. To check its progreſs, however, and prevent the ravages it makes on the human ſpecies, are objects of the firſt conſideration. Theſe ravages are more extenſive than is generally imagined. Though few die under the diſeaſe, yet its effects prove fatal to many. Numberleſs conſtitutions are inevitably ruined, even before the patient is aware of his danger, or the proper ſteps have been taken to prevent it.

Nor do theſe ſufferings affect the guilty alone; the innocent are often involved in them: even the infant unborn is puniſhed for the vices of its parents. Society itſelf is a ſufferer. Inſtead of a robuſt and healthy race, men become weak and puny; are worn out with

the ſcrophula and other diſeaſes, till at length, become unfit for ſuſtaining the common functions of life, they dwindle off the face of the earth.

It has long been my opinion that much of the miſchief occaſioned by the venereal diſeaſe might be prevented; and that whoever effects this purpoſe will be one of the greateſt benefactors to ſociety. This important purpoſe can only be effected by teaching men how to avoid the malady; and, when they have been ſo unfortunate as to catch the infection, to point out the means by which its bad conſequences may generally be obviated. And here I will venture to ſay, that if men were taught to do what is in their own power, and had reſolution to put it in practice, there would ſeldom be occaſion for the phyſician, and little reaſon to dread the conſequences of the venereal infection.

While men are kept in the dark, and told that they are not to uſe their own underſtanding, in matters that concern their health, they will be the dupes of deſigning knaves; and a diſeaſe, tractable in its nature, and almoſt the only one for which we poſſeſs a ſpe-

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cific remedy, will be ſuffered to commit its ravages on the human race, and to embitter the moſt delicious draught that Heaven has beſtowed for the ſolace of human life.

In the firſt edition of my Domeſtic Medicine the venereal diſeaſe was not inſerted. The reaſons which, at that time, induced me to leave it out were of a delicate nature. Though time and experience have long convinced me that they were groundleſs; yet there are not a few who have expreſſed a wiſh to ſee this diſeaſe treated of at more length, and in a ſeparate volume. With this wiſh I choſe, on many accounts, to comply. Several circumſtances attending this diſorder, which do not apply to any other, render it highly neceſſary that every one ſhould be acquainted both with its ſymptoms and method of cure.

The venereal diſeaſe ariſes from the gratification of the ſtrongeſt paſſion which Nature has implanted in the human breaſt; a paſſion which has often acquired its full ſtrength before Reaſon has aſſumed her throne, and which not unfrequently ſets Reaſon, even in the full plenitude of her power, at defiance. Nature never intended that the propagation of

the ſpecies ſhould be left to the cool dictat s of Reaſon.

Though the power of this paſſion is acknowledged by all, yet, in moſt countries, a degree of turpitude, unleſs under certain circumſtances, is annexed to its gratification. This lays the foundation of concealment, which too often, both in a moral and medical view, produces tragical conſequences. Shame, fear, or falſe modeſty, have induced many a young man to conceal his ſituation, till the diſeaſe has become incurable, which, if taken in the firſt ſtage, would not have occaſioned the ſmalleſt degree of danger, or done the leaſt injury to his conſtitution.

What pity that a young man, the hopes of his country, and the darling of his parents, ſhould be ſnatched from all the proſpects and enjoyments of life, by the folly of one unguarded moment, and by a diſeaſe which is not, in its own nature, fatal; and which never proves ſo, unleſs from neglect or improper treatment! Yet theſe diſtreſſing ſcenes occur every day, while the afflicted parents often remain in ignorance with regard to the real cauſe of their misfortune.

When the unhappy ſufferer by this diſeaſe perceives his ſituation, the ſame inclination to conceal it too often induces him to apply to thoſe peſts of ſociety, the advertiſing quacks, who, while they promiſe a ſudden and ſecret cure, generally diſappoint him. Every man converſant in the cure of this diſeaſe will readily own, that the moſt deplorable caſes he meets with, are thoſe which have been under the care of quacks; till the patient, convinced of their ignorance, had recourſe to proper advice.

The quack not only holds out the lures of expedition and concealment, but of cheapneſs. To ſome patients this is a matter of importance: in this expectation, however, they are ſure to be diſappointed. When the quack finds that the patient's pocket will hold out no longer, he generally diſmiſſes him, telling him he is cured, or leaving him to find a remedy where he can. No doubt the moſt ignorant pretender may ſometimes ſucceed; but as untoward circumſtances will frequently occur, it is ſafer to be in the hands of one who knows how to treat them, than of him who practiſes at random, and treats every caſe alike.

We daily ſee a pill, a powder, or a drop advertiſed to cure the venereal diſeaſe. It would be equally proper to advertiſe a pill or drop to cure all diſeaſes. The different ſymptoms of the venereal diſorder require as different a method of treatment as any two diſeaſes whatever. Indeed, properly ſpeaking, it is two diſeaſes; or, at leaſt, appears under two ſuch different forms, as to require a total different mode of treatment. Whoever advertiſes any one noſtrum for the cure of this diſeaſe, evidently knows nothing about it: the different forms under which it appears, not only require different medicines, but even the ſymptoms, at different periods of the ſame ſpecies, differ widely from one another, and are not to be treated in the ſame manner.

The whole art of medicine conſiſts in diſcrimination. Any man may know drugs, but few know how to apply them. When a man tells us that mercury will cure the venereal diſeaſe, he informs us of nothing, unleſs he points out the ſymptoms in which mercury is proper, and alſo the manner in which it ought to be adminiſtered. Mercury adminiſtered at random, which I fear is too often the caſe, muſt do more miſchief than good.

One

One great misfortune attending thoſe who are afflicted with this malady is the neceſſity of diſguiſe. In many ſituations of life a man may be ruined by its being known that he laboured under the venereal diſeaſe. The peace of many families has been broken by the miſtake of an unguarded moment, when all the injury might have been repaired, and the matter kept an abſolute ſecret, had the unfortunate perſon known how eaſy a thing it is to remove this malady on its firſt appearance. Were any apology neceſſary for extending the knowledge of this diſeaſe, the above would be more than ſufficient.

In all diſeaſes it is of importance, as ſoon as poſſible, to know the nature and tendency of the complaint: but in none more ſo than in the venereal. This dreadful malady, which, in its advanced ſtages, commits ſuch ravages on the human ſyſtem, as to deſtroy even its moſt ſolid parts, may be disarmed of all its virulence by ſome gentle applications on its firſt appearance. To negligence, or to trifling with the firſt ſymptoms, we owe all the miſchief ariſing from the venereal diſeaſe.

Other

Other diſeaſes often attack men unawares; but this is ſeldom the caſe with the venereal diſeaſe. It is generally the effect of an overt act, of which the patient muſt have been conſcious, and has conſequently reaſon to expect it. Thus warned, he is prepared to meet the diſorder in its moſt early ſhape, and to uſe ſuch means for preventing its further progreſs, as will be pointed out in the ſequel.

A truly diſtreſsful ſituation frequently occurs, which makes an acquaintance with the early ſymptoms of this diſorder neceſſary. It may be communicated in a variety of ways, and is often caught by nurſes, and by married women, whoſe huſbands lead diſſolute lives, but who either want honeſty or reſolution to warn them of their danger. The deplorable ſituation to which ſuch innocent perſons are often reduced, before they are appriſed of their danger, makes ſuch communications as this highly neceſſary.

Though in nineteen out of twenty caſes, where this diſeaſe occurs, the patient may be his own phyſician, yet, from peculiarity of conſtitution, or ſome unknown cauſe, ſymptoms of an untoward kind will ſometimes occur, which may

may render it neceſſary to take advice. Theſe ſituations will be marked, and I would adviſe the patient always to apply to a man of character and ſkill in his profeſſion, but never to truſt himſelf in the hands of a quack. It will be ſaid, why not apply to a man of ſkill from the beginning? When this is in the patient's power, it ought to be done; but in many ſituations men of ſkill are not to be found, and where they are, it is not always in the patient's power to obtain their aſſiſtance. It is chiefly for men ſo ſituated that the following pages are compoſed. They are not intended to ſuperſede the phyſician, but to ſhew the patient what is in his own power in ſituations where better aſſiſtance cannot be obtained.

It is acknowledged on all hands that the venereal diſeaſe is leſs fatal than it was formerly. This does not ſeem to ariſe from any change in the nature of the diſorder. Caſes every day occur, where it diſplays all the virulence it ever poſſeſſed, and the miſerable victims to its rage die in a condition too horrid to be named *. Thank Heaven, however, theſe

* In proof of this, I was informed, a few days ago, by the gentlemen who attend the Military Hospital at Woolwich, that some

theſe are few; and, if proper attention were paid to the firſt ſymptoms of the diſeaſe, they would be ſtill leſs numerous.

There is no diſeaſe which exhibits ſuch ſtriking proofs of the advantages of diffuſing medical knowledge as this. When men were totally ignorant with regard to the nature and ſymptoms of this diſeaſe, they conſidered it as a plague, and gave themſelves up for loſt whenever they were afflicted with it: their friends and relations abandoned them, and they were not only denied all medical aſſiſtance, but often left to periſh for want of the neceſſaries of life.

It was held in ſuch diſgrace, that whole families, where it was ſuppoſed to be hereditary, were deſpiſed, and all connexions with them avoided. Individuals were not allowed to come into company, nor would any one eat, drink, or ſleep with them. People were even afraid to live under the ſame roof with the patient, leſt they ſhould catch the infection.

cases of the lues have of late appeared there, which, in spite of all their efforts, destroy the whole genetalia, corrode all the muscular flesh on the neighbouring parts, and lay the abdominal viscera bare before the miserable patient dies.

Nor

Nor was this all; a degree of moral turpitude was annexed to this malady, which rendered the unhappy ſufferer an object of religious abhorrence.

While ſuch opinions prevailed concerning this diſeaſe, the conſequences may be eaſily inferred. The unhappy patient would conceal his ſituation with all poſſible care, and would ſuffer every thing rather than become an object of diſgrace and ridicule. I have heard many people ſay, that rather than it ſhould be known they had this malady, they would loſe their lives. While ſuch ſentiments as theſe prevailed, it is no wonder the diſeaſe ſhould often have proved fatal.

In a fever or rheumatiſm, even when occaſioned by the patient's imprudence, he is eſteemed an object of compaſſion, and meets with general commiſeration; while the unhappy ſufferer under the venereal diſeaſe is ſeldom pitied—nay, ſome are even ſo cruel as to think he ſhould be ſuffered to periſh without aſſiſtance. Widely different is the language of humanity, which bids us do all we can to relieve our fellow-creatures in diſtreſs, from whatever cauſe it may ariſe.

People now, who are able to pay for it, generally apply for aſſiſtance on the firſt appearance of the diſeaſe, and ſeldom allow it to proceed till it becomes incurable. Unhappily, however, this deſcription of people is not numerous. For one that is able to obtain proper advice, ten have either no advice at all, or, what is worſe than none, *bad advice*. What was formerly called the gentleman's diſeaſe is now equally common among the loweſt ranks in cities. It is here the poiſon lurks, which, I fear, will never be eradicated. Though gentlemen ſeldom ſuffer the diſeaſe to remain uncured; yet, when the infection has been caught, perhaps in its moſt virulent form, by an artificer, a common ſervant, or a day labourer, it is more than an equal chance againſt his ever obtaining a radical cure.

There is one claſs of ſociety among whom this diſeaſe may be ſaid to have its ſtrong hold: I mean that deſcription of females commonly called *women of the town*. However theſe unhappy perſons were brought into this ſituation, they are certainly entitled to our pity, eſpecially when, to all their other misfortunes, this loathſome and cruel diſeaſe is added.

Very

Very few of this claſs of patients ever get thoroughly well. They generally apply to the moſt ignorant retainers to the medical art, and even to theſe they never do juſtice. They ſeldom take the medicines preſcribed to them, and, when they do, they are unable to obſerve a proper regimen. Their neceſſities oblige them to go out in all kinds of weather, and their diſſolute mode of living is ſuch as to counteract the operation even of the beſt-laid plan for effecting their cure, and to defeat the endeavours of the ableſt phyſician.

Though unable to pay for advice, they have much in their own power, both with reſpect to the prevention and cure of the diſorder. By a thorough attention to cleanlineſs, they may often avoid the infection; and, by obſerving the directions contained in the following pages, they will be able to prevent the diſeaſe from going ſo far as to endanger the conſtitution. It is my fixed opinion that thoſe two ſcourges of mankind, the great and the ſmall pox, might both be diſarmed of their malignity, ſo far as to be no longer the dread and terror of the human race. If this is in the power of medicine, who will dare to ſay that

that the art is not of the greateſt importance to ſociety?

In a former work I have endeavoured to ſhew that the ſmall pox may be rendered almoſt harmleſs by inoculation; and, in the following pages, I ſhall attempt to prove that the venereal diſeaſe may be diſarmed of all its ſting, by a due attention to its firſt ſymptoms. When I have done ſo, I ſhall allow the faculty to cenſure my conduct as much as they pleaſe, and ſhall truſt to thoſe who reap the benefit of my writings to vindicate their author.

If the venereal diſeaſe has become milder than it was formerly, this change is not owing to the ſkill of the faculty, but to the general knowledge diffuſed among mankind, concerning this, as well as other diſeaſes. Though almoſt aſhamed to own it, I am old enough to remember a method of treating this diſeaſe taught in the univerſities, which to an apothecary's apprentice, of the preſent times, would appear trifling.

The progreſs made in the knowledge and cure of this diſeaſe, ſince the publication of the Domeſtic Medicine, is a ſufficient apology for treating it here at more length; eſpecially as

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the opportunities I have lately had of ſeeing the diſorder under every form, have been far more numerous than during the early period of my practice. My knowledge of the diſeaſe then was chiefly taken from books. I ſhall now do little more than tranſcribe my own obſervations, adding, from other authors, ſuch as have not occurred to myſelf. I ſhall not wantonly reject the ſentiments of other writers; neither ſhall I implicitly adopt them, unleſs where I have reaſon to think they are well founded.

I am ſorry to ſay that the conduct of one claſs of the faculty, who claim a kind of excluſive right to the treatment of the venereal diſeaſe, is a ſtrong inducement for me to make mankind in general more acquainted with it. The delicate ſituation in which ſome perſons who have received the infection, are placed, puts it in the power of thoſe whom they entruſt with their cure, to make very extravagant demands, as they know few people would chuſe to litigate a claim of this nature. I am far from ſaying that this is the conduct of ſurgeons in general; but that ſome are guilty of it, I well know; and I cannot help conſider-

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ing it as the moſt infamous ſpecies of impoſition that can be practiſed on any man.

It is far from my intention to write a complete treatiſe on the venereal diſeaſe. This has been very fully accompliſhed by others; neither would it ſuit the nature of my performance, which only aims at exhibiting ſuch a view of that malady as will enable any perſon of common ſenſe to know when he has caught the infection; and, at the ſame time, to ſuggeſt the proper means for preventing its progreſs, or removing it in the early ſtages.

CHAP. I.

OF PREVENTING THE VENEREAL DISEASE.

TO prevent diſeaſes muſt be of more importance than to cure them. Little attention, however, has been paid to this branch of the medical art, eſpecially with regard to the venereal diſeaſe. Here the prophylaxis has been generally left to quacks, who, by puffing their pretended antidotes, have amaſſed fortunes, while credulous men, by truſting to their lies, have been tricked out of their money and their lives. I have known a dignified noſtrum-monger inſiſt that a gentleman had not the lues, merely becauſe he had uſed his lotion according to the printed directions. In this

opinion he perſiſted till the patient had nearly loſt his life *.

Men ſeldom give themſelves any trouble about a diſeaſe till they have it. They think it is ſoon enough to apply the remedy when they feel the diſorder. Hence the buſineſs of prevention is neglected, and authors complain that little can be done to effect this purpoſe; while the fact is, that the proper means are ſeldom uſed.

That both the clap and pox may be often prevented, by due attention to cleanlineſs alone, does not admit of a doubt: and even where the pocky infection has been communicated, its baneful effects on the ſyſtem may be obviated by the timely and proper application of mercury.

* Some years ago I was requested to act as umpire between a ſurgeon and his patient. The ſurgeon inſisted that the patient was poxed, while the other denied it, and refused to take the proper medicines. I, at firſt ſight, declared the diſeaſe to be a confirmed pox; on which the gentleman produced a letter from a titled quack, deſiring him to make himſelf eaſy, for that he could not poſſibly be poxed, if he had made uſe of his waſh according to the printed directions. I told him I knew nothing of the waſh, but was certain that no waſh, if uſed according to theſe directions, would ever prevent the infection from taking place, and that his ſituation exhibited an evident proof of it.

I do

I do not mean to quibble about names, but I maintain that a man who has a chancre only, cannot, with propriety, be ſaid to be poxed. If the diſeaſe can be ſtopped in this ſtate, which, in moſt caſes it may, ſurely the pox is, to all intents and purpoſes, prevented; or, what is nearly equivalent to prevention, the diſeaſe is rendered ſo mild as to be inoffenſive to the ſyſtem. When a diſeaſe cannot be eradicated, which I am convinced is the caſe, both with regard to the great and ſmall pox, our buſineſs ſurely is to render it as mild as poſſible; and, thank Heaven! it is now in the power of medicine to diſarm theſe herculean maladies, ſo as to render their influence on the human conſtitution very inconſiderable.

The buſineſs of prevention arranges itſelf under the three following heads; namely, the moral, political, and medical means of obviating this malady.

To the firſt of theſe, as far as my recollection goes, very little attention has been paid; the ſecond, unleſs in ſome ſmall ſtates, has been wholly neglected; and the third, as has been already obſerved, is generally left in the hands of quacks.

A young man of good morals is certainly leſs apt to fall into thoſe ſnares which, too often, lead to deſtruction, than one who has never been warned of his danger, but is left to follow the bent of his own inclinations. No ſaying is more true than, "that the wicked ſhall not live half his days."---I have ſeldom known a young man, whoſe morals had been neglected, who did not daſh into every vice as ſoon as he was capable of it, and whoſe life was not, by that means, contracted. If parents knew how neceſſary a moral education is for prolonging the lives of their offſpring, they would, perhaps, pay more attention to it, than when they conſider it as merely ſubſervient to their happineſs in a future ſtate.

An attention to health, which ought to be a primary object in the education of children, is ſeldom conſidered as even a ſecondary one; while trifling accompliſhments, of little importance in the purſuits of life, generally engroſs the attention both of maſter and ſcholar. I am happy, however, to find that an attempt has lately been made by Dr. Fauſt, a German phyſician, to impreſs the minds both of teachers and their pupils, with an idea of the

the importance of health; and that this attempt has met with the warmeſt approbation of his Serene Highneſs the Prince of Wirzberg.

Young men are prodigal of life. They throw it wantonly away at the very time it is moſt worth preſerving; nor do they know the value of health till it is loſt. Many painful hours might be prevented by a few cautions duly enforced on the young mind. Early impreſſions are ſeldom eradicated. They generally form the conduct, and become the rules of life. Were a young man taught to believe that the paths of pleaſure lead to deſtruction; that if he purſues them, he will never arrive at mature age, but fall the early victim of loathſome diſeaſe; he would ſhun pleaſure more than the gates of hell. The genuine conſequences of vice need only to be painted in their true colours, in order to make it an object of horror to the youthful mind.

Young men ought not only to be taught to ſhun the allurements of vice; but, if they ſhould be ſo unfortunate as to contract the venereal diſeaſe, by no means to conceal it. Candour is a virtue; and, as the poet ſays, the firſt fault is eaſieſt to avow. The compli-

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cated miſchief ariſing from concealment of this malady is only known to thoſe who have an opportunity of ſeeing it in every ſhape and form under which it appears. A young man ought certainly to ſtand in awe of parents and guardians; but by no means to be ſo overawed as to loſe his life, rather than diſcloſe his ſituation. This, however, is no uncommon caſe.

Though the beſt guardian of virtue is a good moral education, yet a young man who has had every advantage of this kind may go wrong; he will ſeldom, however, perſiſt in error; whereas a youth, void of principle, will not only run headlong into vice and folly, but will ſeldom ſtop till he has ruined both his fortune and conſtitution.

As example has more influence than precept, it might be of uſe to young men, were they occaſionally taken to places where the unhappy ſufferers, under the venereal diſeaſe, are congregated. They would there ſee the wretched condition to which thoughtleſs youth may be reduced by the act of one unguarded moment. I have known the firſt miſtake made by a young man, in this way, coſt him his

his life; and have ſeen others, who, from a ſingle unfortunate connection, were rendered incapable, ever after, of enjoying connubial happineſs.

Though parents, tutors, and guardians, were to uſe every endeavour to keep youth from the ſnares laid for them by bad women; yet, owing to the want of police in moſt great cities, they would find their efforts frequently fruſtrated. It is there the corruption of youth is almoſt unavoidable; and their deſtruction, alas! is but too often the conſequence.

Much might be done towards leſſening the ravages of this baneful malady by the exertions of the public magiſtrate. But to effect this purpoſe would require more ſkill and attention than one magiſtrate in a hundred is equal to. Undue interference in theſe matters does miſchief, and to put them under proper regulations would require the moſt conſummate wiſdom. This, however, is no reaſon why lewd women ſhould be ſuffered to prowl about in the public ſtreets without the leaſt reſtraint.

Were

Were men to be ſeen at the corner of every ſtreet in a great city, armed with ſwords and bludgeons to put every one in fear of his life, who would not comply with their demands; the public mind would be quickly rouſed, and proper meaſures taken to ſuppreſs them; yet the danger is nearly equal from thoſe unhappy females, who lie in wait to enſnare the unguarded youth as he paſſes along. The young man muſt have uncommon reſolution indeed, who can always reſiſt theſe temptations; yet by yielding, in a ſingle inſtance, he may be undone. One ſtep leads on to another, till the unwary victim, immured in vice, finds it impoſſible to retreat. It ſignifies very little, if a man is robbed of his health or property, whether it is done under the influence of one paſſion or another.

Nor is youth alone in danger; even age and experience are not always ſufficient protections againſt the allurements of beauty, and ſolicitation. Numbers, who would not go in queſt of an amour, are not able to reſiſt the temptation when thrown in their way with all its embelliſhments, eſpecially after the ſocial humour has been excited by wine and agreeable

able company. It is then the proſtituted beauty becomes dangerous, and the health, happineſs, and peace of families are ſacrificed.

Even the delicacy of modeſt women is hurt by the number of common proſtitutes which they daily ſee in the open ſtreets; and their example muſt have an unfavourable influence on the younger part of the ſex.

I ſhall be told there are laws in this country for puniſhing ſuch women. True; but are any meaſures taken to prevent the evil? the means uſed to ſuppreſs them are at once cruel and ineffectual. There is no want of good laws in this country for puniſhing crimes; but there are few, or none for preventing them. Preventing crimes, like preventing diſeaſes, would be of infinitely more importance than puniſhing the criminal.

Were it my province here to dip into affairs of police, I ſhould think it an eaſy matter to ſuggeſt a plan by which the public ſtreets of great cities might be freed from thoſe women, who, by night and by day, infeſt them, without laying any unneceſſary or improper reſtraints on the intercourſe between the different ſex, dictated by nature and reaſon. Indeed all

undue reſtraints on that intercourſe do miſchief. They lead to the commiſſion of unnatural crimes, and to the formation of connexions which prove injurious to the deareſt intereſts of ſociety.

Proper laws for the preſervation of health, do not exiſt in any country with which I am acquainted; but it does not from hence follow that they are not of great importance. Even thoſe laws which are made for the protection of property are not, in my opinion, more neceſſary, for the happineſs of ſociety, than thoſe which relate to health; though every man thinks he can take care of the latter, but wiſhes the former to be ſecured by penal ſtatutes.

With the legiſlators of ancient ſtates, health ſeems to have been a primary object of conſideration; nor do we think it would derogate from the honour of modern legiſlators were they to follow the example. Moſes, who was certainly one of the moſt ancient legiſlators of whom we have any account, has evidently employed a great part of his excellent code of laws, in laying down rules both for the prevention and cure of diſeaſes.

I know

I know the waſhings, ſeparations, and purifications enjoined by Moſes, are ſuppoſed to be religious inſtitutions, and to have a reference to inward purity. Be that as it may, they were certainly well calculated to preſerve health in that country, and among the people for whom they were intended. Indeed I know no country where cleanlineſs can be diſpenſed with, or is not neceſſary to the preſervation of health.

Nor is Moſes ſingular in this. Many of the laws of ancient Egypt related to health; and, as we are told, that he was inſtructed in all the learning of that country, there is little doubt that he availed himſelf of this information in framing his code of laws, many of which are ſo excellent as to have been adopted by the moſt enlightened European nations.

As impure connexions, however, will take place in ſpite of all precautions that can be given, we ſhall next proceed to point out ſome of the medical preparations which have been recommended by way of preventives.

Preventives, as might naturally be ſuppoſed, conſiſt chiefly of waſhes variouſly prepared, and compoſed of detergent ingredients. Here,

however, I muſt beg leave to premiſe that all *ſpecific* waſhes are impoſitions on the public. They not only poſſeſs no ſpecific virtues for the prevention of the diſeaſe, but they divert the attention from the main object, which is waſhing, by holding up the idea of their being poſſeſſed of ſome peculiar qualities calculated to counteract the poiſon, and prevent its taking effect.

Much may be done by waſhing, if properly performed. We have been told it ſometimes fails; it would be wonderful indeed if this ſhould never happen. The wonder is, that it happens ſo ſeldom, conſidering the circumſtances under which it is generally performed. Moſt of my patients tell me that when they caught the diſorder, they were ſo far intoxicated as not to be capable of paying proper attention to the buſineſs of waſhing.

Another cauſe of failure is the propenſity moſt people have to deſpiſe every thing they know, or that is plain and ſimple. Give them any diſguiſed noſtrum, and they will uſe it; but they have no faith in the virtues of plain water, and, if they have not ſome ſecret waſh at hand, the buſineſs is neglected. Even when patients

patients have what they eſteem proper waſhes by them, they are ſeldom properly uſed. Immerſion alone is deemed ſufficient; but no lotion, let its powers be what they may, can prevent the venereal diſeaſe by ſimple immerſion.

Such is the effect of waſhing alone, that a gentleman told me he had tried to communicate the diſeaſe to a lady, with a view to aſcertain a point of jealouſy; but could not effect it. This he attributed ſolely to her extraordinary attention to cleanlineſs. I have known men who for many years had lived freely, with regard to the ſex, yet never caught the venereal infection, owing to their ſtrict attention to ablution.

In all caſes cleanlineſs is a virtue; but, in the commerce between the ſexes, it is indiſpenſable, and thoſe who neglect it are little better than beaſts. There is a merit in practiſing this virtue, even from the fear of diſeaſe; but, to a perſon thoroughly clean, this ſtimulus will not be neceſſary. If any virtue prove its own reward, it is cleanlineſs.

Nor would I have the modeſt matron leſs attentive to it than the impure. Men often apply

apply to me who think themſelves injured by their wives. They have inflammations, and often ſlight excoriations of the parts, which would never happen if their wives were ſufficiently attentive, even to the uſe of cold water.

As a great number of different waſhes have been recommended for preventing infection, I ſhall inſert a few of them, premiſing, at the ſame time, that all their virtues amount to little more than thoſe of plain water properly applied; or water impregnated with ſuch ingredients, as may render it more detergent, or cleanſing, as ſoap-lees, and ſuch like.

Some recommend water that has been impregnated with the virtues of quick-lime; while others prefer the cauſtic alkali, or even the cauſtic volatile alkali, properly diluted. Theſe, we have reaſon to believe, are the active ingredients in moſt of the waſhes commonly kept as ſecrets, and ſold at a high price to enhance their value. We have no objection to their being uſed, provided the active ingredients are ſo diluted as not to hurt or excoriate the parts.

Many uſe Goulard's extract of lead as a waſh: It is not ſo much a detergent as a dryer; and,

and, though it makes a good injection in the gonorrhœa, we cannot infer from hence that it is proper as a preventive lotion. It may be uſed of different degrees of ſtrength. What I commonly uſe, both externally and internally, conſiſts of a tea-ſpoonful of the extract to a tea-cupful * of common water. The corroſive ſublimate of mercury, diſſolved in water, has been recommended as a proper preventive waſh. It may, no doubt, be uſed, but requires great caution, otherwiſe it will inflame the parts. One or two grains to a tea-cupful of water is as much as can be uſed with ſafety. The ſublimate is doubtleſs a powerful remedy in the lues; but how far its ſpecific virtues may operate as a waſh, I cannot ſay, as I never made trial of it in this way.

Even the crude mercury is by ſome uſed as a waſh: It muſt be well triturated with honey and turpentine, and afterwards mixed with a quantity of water ſufficient to dilute it. It is a clumſy preparation. If mercury is to be uſed for this purpoſe, we would recommend the ſublimate.

* A tea-cup is ſupposed to contain about four ounces.

I am

I am inclined to think that a ſolution of ſoap, or a little of the ſhaving powder, made into a lather, would anſwer this purpoſe as well, if not better, than any other waſh whatever. It muſt, however, be uſed immediately, and applied properly. People often blame the waſh when the fault is their own. No waſh will ſucceed unleſs it is applied early, and with due care.

I know many gentlemen, who, inſtead of truſting to any particular waſh, make uſe of whatever liquid is at hand, as beer, wine, punch, negus, brandy and water, rum and water, &c.; indeed ſome recommend brandy alone in preference to any thing elſe. I have reaſon to believe it is a good waſh, but cannot think it the worſe for being diluted with water, eſpecially with warm water, if at hand; but it ought rather to be uſed cold than time loſt by waiting till it is made warm. Any liquor may be ſufficiently warmed by holding it for a ſhort time in the mouth.

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

OF THE VIRULENT GONORRHŒA, OR CLAP.

IT is not my intention to enter into a critical inquiry concerning the diſtinction between ſyphilis and gonorrhœa. It would only tend to embarraſs and bewilder my readers. My aim is to mark the ſymptoms peculiar to each, and to point out the method of cure. It is not material to know whether gonorrhœa ever produces the pox; or if the pocky matter can excite gonorrhœa; ſo long as we know that each is attended with ſymptoms peculiar to itſelf, and that they require a totally different method of treatment.

Many who pretend to cure the venereal diſeaſe, treat every ſymptom in the ſame way. The very name with them implies the uſe of

mercury, which they throw into the ſyſtem, with a liberal hand, upon all occaſions. I have ſeen conſtitutions totally ruined by the uſe of mercury, where there was not occaſion for a ſingle grain. Indeed mercury generally does miſchief in a gonorrhœa, but ſeldom any good.

The term gonorrhœa is improper: it ſignifies a diſcharge of ſemen. Whereas the true *gonorrhœa virulanta* is only a diſcharge of mucus from the urethra, without any ſeminal evacuation whatever. When this diſcharge is accompanied with a ſenſation of heat, and ſome degree of pain in paſſing water, which the patient has frequently an inclination to void, there is little reaſon to doubt that he labours under the gonorrhœa virulenta.

It is impoſſible to aſcertain the preciſe period after impure coition, at which the running will appear. Sometimes it takes place in a few hours; at other times it requires ſeveral days; and in ſome caſes the diſcharge does not appear for ſeveral weeks. This variety, however, does not ſeem to have any conſiderable influence either on the duration or virulence of the diſeaſe. In moſt caſes the running makes

makes its appearance from the third or fourth, to the ſeventh or eight day.

The appearance of the diſcharge varies in different patients. It is generally thin, and of a yellow colour, with a greeniſh caſt; though ſometimes it is white, and nearly of the conſiſtence of purulent matter. In ſome caſes the diſcharge is brown, and in others bloody, owing to the eroſion of the veſſels in the urethra. In common caſes the diſcharge from the urethra and heat of urine are the only ſymptoms which occur: Though ſometimes theſe are accompanied with painful and involuntary erections, uneaſineſs of the teſticles, and of the abdominal viſcera.

Though in a gonorrhœa ſome degree of uneaſineſs is generally felt along the whole courſe of the urethra; yet the pain is commonly ſeated about an inch from the point of the penis. In ſome caſes indeed the diſeaſe ſpreads backwards, ſo as to extend over the whole length of the urethra, and even to the bladder itſelf. Nor are the proſtate glands and internal coat of the bladder alone affected. Sometimes the pains ſtretch from theſe parts along the ureters, even to the kidneys.

It is impoſſible, at the beginning, to ſay preciſely in what manner any caſe of gonorrhœa will terminate. Symptoms of the mildeſt kind will occaſionally ſucceed to a violent diſcharge; while, in other caſes, the contrary takes place. It is generally ſuppoſed that the diſeaſe will prove mild, and of ſhort duration, when the running is white or yellow; and that, when it is firſt green, or tinged with blood, the running will prove obſtinate: but though this may be generally true, it is by no means univerſally ſo.

It is reckoned a favourable ſymptom in gonorrhœa when the diſcharge becomes thick and ropy. Though this is unqueſtionably one of the moſt favourable occurrences in every clap, yet it is by no means a certain proof that the diſcharge will ſoon terminate. In certain conſtitutions the running will prove obſtinate, even where the ſymptoms are all favourable.

When the running does not ſoon become ropy, but continues thin, and of a pale colour, there is reaſon to fear that it will terminate in a gleet. This, though by no means a dangerous ſymptom, is one of the moſt unpleaſant

ſant that attends the venereal diſeaſe, and in many caſes proves very obſtinate.

There is a kind of ſpurious gonorrhœa, commonly called *gonorrhœa ſimplex*, which, in many reſpects, reſembles the real one. Married people are often alarmed at the appearance of this complaint, and medical men, who are not ſufficiently acquainted with this diſorder, may do much miſchief. No man ſhould declare any running from the urethra, in either ſex, to be venereal from the appearance only. In this caſe his opinion muſt be guided by circumſtance, otherwiſe he will be apt to err.

A married man has applied to me ſeveral times, thinking himſelf injured, at the ſame time aſſuring me that he had not been guilty of any deviation from his wife, whom I knew to be an amiable and virtuous woman. I only adviſed him to waſh the parts with Goulard's extract and water; and occaſionally to throw up a little of it diluted, as directed in the gonorrhœa. This was all that I ever found neceſſary to remove the complaint, which generally diſappeared in a few days.

METHOD

METHOD OF CURE.

IT has already been obſerved that mercury is not neceſſary for the cure of a gonorrhœa. Some people imagine that as ſoon as the infection is caught, the ſyſtem is tainted; but this is by no means the caſe: the clap is, at firſt, perfectly a local diſeaſe, and may be cured by local applications. Theſe are generally of the aſtringent kind, and may be varied in a variety of ways. Many people are afraid to uſe aſtringent medicines, leſt they ſhould drive the diſeaſe into the habit; but this is owing to their want of experience. I have uſed aſtringent injections in the cure of the clap for many years, and cannot fairly ſay I ever ſaw any diſagreeable conſequences that could juſtly be imputed to them; unleſs in ſuch caſes as will afterwards be pointed out.

As ſoon as the running appears, and there is no inflammation, ſtricture, or ſwelling of the parts to forbid it, my practice is immediately to uſe an aſtringent injection. Of theſe there are a great variety. What I prefer is the white vitriol diſſolved in water: This may be uſed in various proportions, from half a dram

dram of vitriol to a whole dram, to the pint of water: but, for the conveniency of my patients, I generally give it in the following manner:

That he may not have any trouble in preparing the medicine, I diſſolve an ounce of white vitriol in four ounces of water, and deſire the patient to put a tea-ſpoonful of it to a common ſized tea-cupful of water. Of this he is to throw up two or three ſmall ſyringe-fuls *, five or ſix times a day, keeping in the injection for ſome time, by graſping the fore-part of the penis with his hand. This operation is eaſier performed than deſcribed, and can be better done by the patient himſelf than by any one elſe.

The above quantity is ſeldom all neceſſary: Indeed the half is generally ſufficient; but it is better to have ſome to ſpare, than to have too little, as the injection ought always to be continued for ſome time after the running has ſtopped. I have known this quantity not only cure the patient, but alſo ſeveral of his acquaintance; and, as it will keep for a length

* The syringe commonly used for this purpose contains about half an ounce.

of

of time, it may be carried to ſea, or on a journey of any length. Several patients have told me, that, after curing themſelves, on a voyage to America, they had enough left out of the above quantity, to cure one or two of their neighbours.

If the injection occaſion great pain, I order it to be weakened, by adding ſome water to it, ſo as to lower it to the patient's feelings. If the running does not ſtop in a few days, I deſire him to make it ſtronger, by adding a little more of the ſolution, till it is as ſtrong as he can bear. In this way the medicine can always be adapted to the patient's feelings, and to the exigencies of the caſe.

The preparation of lead, which commonly goes by the name of Goulard's extract, may be uſed in the ſame manner as the ſolution of vitriol, and will have nearly the ſame effects. Where the one does not ſucceed to my wiſh, I commonly try the other; but am more partial to the vitriol, as I think lead ought always to be applied with caution to interior ſurfaces.

As one or other of theſe injections made ſtronger or weaker, according to circumſtances, generally ſucceeds, I ſeldom find occaſion for any

any of a different nature; but, that patients may have it in their power to make a choice, I have ſubjoined various forms of injection at the end of the book.

This injection generally cures a clap in a few days, provided no untoward ſymptoms appear. I make it a rule, however, to keep the body gently open during the uſe of the injection. This may be done various ways, but gentle purgatives are the beſt. What I generally uſe for this purpoſe, is a cooling, opening powder, compoſed of cream of tartar and gum arabic, in powder, each an ounce; jalap in powder, two drams: theſe are to be mixed, and a tea-ſpoonful taken at bed-time in a cup of gruel, or any other weak drink. Should this have no effect, another tea-ſpoonful may be taken in the morning, and a third at noon, if found neceſſary to keep the body open. If a tea-ſpoonful of the powder gives more than one motion, it will be ſufficient to uſe it every ſecond or third day.

The patient's body is not only to be kept open, but he ought to avoid all food and drink of a heating or ſtimulating nature. He is

likewiſe to avoid violent exerciſe, and every thing that may heat or inflame the parts, as hard drinking, running, wreſtling, riding, and ſuch-like. Cold is alſo to be guarded againſt, eſpecially expoſure to wet, ſitting in damp places, ſleeping in damp beds, keeping on wet cloaths, and the like.

Sometimes untoward ſymptoms will occur, in ſpite of all our care; but theſe would be leſs frequent were due attention paid to the patient's diet, and the other articles mentioned above. It is to be regretted that patients have not this always in their power; and when they have, they are often very negligent.

Though injections will be found by far the moſt agreeable, ſafe, and expeditious method of cure; yet they are not to be indiſcriminately uſed in all caſes, and in every ſtage of the gonorrhœa. By not diſtinguiſhing between thoſe caſes where injections may or may not be uſed, much miſchief is done, and the practice brought into diſcredit.

There are particular habits of body where injections do hurt; ſuch as the highly-inflammatory,

flammatory, or perſons of a very irritable nerve. In ſuch habits injections are either not to be uſed at all, or to be begun in a very diluted ſtate, and gradually increaſed in ſtrength, till they produce their effect. If any ſymptoms of inflammation or ſwelling appear, they are immediately to be diſcontinued.

While the inflammation is confined to the lower part of the urethra, and does not extend upwards towards the root of the penis, or neck of the bladder, it is ſafe to inject; but when the inflammation extends upwards, and ſeems to threaten the proſtate gland, the bladder, and parts adjacent, injections would prove hurtful.

In the firſt ſtage of gonorrhœa the diſcharge proceeds from a part of the urethra, not above an inch, or at moſt an inch and a half, from the point of the penis. While this is the caſe, even though a conſiderable heat of urine*, and ſome degree of chordee takes place, injections may be uſed with great ad-

* *Aſdor urinæ*, or heat of urine, as it is usually called, is an improper name for a symptom which depends, not on the heat of the urine, but the tenderness of that part of the urethra where the inflammation is seated, and over which the urine passes.

vantage; and theſe ſymptoms, inſtead of being aggravated, will, by their means, be alleviated.

What is called the inflammatory diatheſis is ſo ſtrong in ſome patients, that I have ſeen a large tumor riſe in the groin merely from the application of cold water externally to the parts of generation, during the progreſs of a gonorrhœa, which was ſo gentle, that the patient miſtook it for a gleet, and took this method of removing it.

The true criterion with regard to injecting is the ſtate of the inflammation. When this runs high, with great tenſion, pain, and ſwelling of the parts, it would be wrong to inject. Indeed, when this is the caſe, the running ought rather to be encouraged than checked, and the patient put upon a cool and diluting regimen, aſſiſted by bleeding and other evacuations.

When the inflammation is conſiderable, it ſometimes terminates in ſuppuration, a circumſtance by all means to be guarded againſt; as it not only proves highly diſtreſſing to the patient, but is frequently deſtructive to the parts of generation. In this caſe every effort is to be

be made to ward off the impending danger, by leſſening the inflammation.

To check the progreſs of inflammation, beſides the means already mentioned, I would recommend poultices, with the ſugar of lead, or Goulard's extract, to be conſtantly applied to the parts, and bleeding with leeches. This, which has been my practice for many years, now begins to become general. In almoſt every local inflammation, leeches may be applied with advantage, but in none with greater benefit than thoſe of the genitals. I have often been a witneſs of their good effects in ſuch caſes, and would recommend a re-application of them as often as the ſymptoms may render it neceſſary, or till the inflammation is abated.

The gonorrhœa in women differs ſo little from the ſame diſeaſe in men, both in its ſymptoms and method of cure, that it hardly merits particular notice. The ſymptoms, however, are milder in women than in men; and, from ſome of the moſt diſtreſſing, they are wholly exempted: but the ſeat of the diſeaſe being nearer the bladder in women, that organ is more liable to inflammation than in the other

other ſex; nor do they ſuffer leſs from what is called the heat of the urine.

As women are ſubject to other diſcharges, which have a great reſemblance to the gonorrhœa, it is more difficult to aſcertain the exiſtence of the diſeaſe in them than in men. It may, however, be known from the heat of urine, which rarely occurs except in gonorrhœa, and likewiſe from the colour and conſiſtence of the diſcharge, which is thinner and more pale in the *fluor albus* than in the gonorrhœa.

The diſcharge is to be removed in the ſame manner, and by the ſame means, as in men: and, if the inflammation runs high, the ſame cooling medicines will be neceſſary; likewiſe bleeding, and gentle purges. It is fortunate that the ſame aſtringent injections which are uſed for the gonorrhœa, are equally proper in the whites. The only circumſtance that can forbid their uſe is a high degree of inflammation, eſpecially when the inflammation extends to the coats of the bladder, which may be known by the pain affecting that very ſenſible organ in a high degree.

OF

OF THE CHORDEE.

A painful ſymptom, which often attends the virulent gonorrhœa, is called a chordee. This is peculiarly troubleſome in the night, or when the patient has an erection. In habits liable to inflammation, or where the pain is violent, bleeding and other evacuations are neceſſary. Some recommend emollient injections, with laudanum, and rubbing the parts with mercurial ointment.

I generally order the parts to be frequently rubbed with camphorated oil, or ſome emollient ointment; and the patient to take from thirty to forty drops of laudanum in a draught, at bed-time. As this ſymptom is connected with inflammation, the patient ought to live ſparingly, and to avoid the ſight of ſuch objects as may excite laſcivious ideas.

Few things tend more to relieve this painful ſymptom than drinking plentifully of linſeed tea.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE VIRULENT GONORRHŒA.

ALTHOUGH *gonorrhœa virulenta* is only a local diſeaſe, and does not ſeem to affect the ſyſtem, yet it often occaſions ſymptoms which prove both tedious and troubleſome; ſymptoms which, though not always dangerous, are very vexatious, and ſometimes continue during the patient's life. Of theſe the moſt common are, obſtructions in the urethra, ſwellings of the teſticles and of the lymphatic veſſels, gleets and ſeminal weakneſſes, warts, excoriations, and other affections of the glans and prepuce.

OF OBSTRUCTIONS IN THE URETHRA.

Of all the ſymptoms ſubſequent to a virulent gonorrhœa, the moſt painful and danger-

ous

ous are ſtrictures of the urethra, or urinary paſſage. Theſe not only endanger, but often deſtroy life; and, when the patient falls into unſkilful hands, he may be deprived of his virility. When theſe ſymptoms do not yield to bleeding, cooling purges, emollient fomentations, and the uſe of bougies, the aſſiſtance of an able ſurgeon ſhould, if poſſible, be procured. He will generally find occaſion for all his ſkill in removing theſe untoward affections, which, notwithſtanding the moſt ſkilful treatment, will ſometimes occur.

Obſtructions in the urethra may be occaſioned by ſpaſmodic affections of the part, tumors in the ſubſtance of the urethra and neighbouring parts, fleſhy excreſcences, carruncles, &c. In all theſe affections the patient is to expect relief chiefly from the proper uſe of bougies. Though a degree of ſcience might ſeem neceſſary for the proper management of bougies, I have always found patients, with a very little inſtruction, able to make a proper uſe of them, without any trouble or danger to themſelves. Indeed, if a patient does not know how to introduce a bougie himſelf, it will often be of no uſe to him.

A man may be ſeized with an obſtruction of urine on a journey, or in many ſituations where he can neither procure a bougie, nor find a perſon to introduce it. Patients have often told me that they muſt have loſt their lives on a journey, if they had not carried bougies along with them, and known how to uſe them. Indeed every perſon ſubject to obſtructions of urine, ought to carry bougies in his pocket.

It is not here neceſſary to give any inſtructions concerning the making of bougies, as they can always be had ready made, of a ſuperior conſtruction to any that men not practiſed in the art, can pretend to make themſelves. They ought, however, to be made with care. Should a bougie break in the urethra, it might be attended with very ſerious conſequences*. Nor is care leſs neceſſary in introducing them, otherwiſe much miſchief may be done by wounding and irritating the tender parts about the neck of the bladder.

In uſing bougies it will be proper always to begin with a ſmall one, and gradually to

* Catgut bougies are preferable to any other, being less liable to break, and capable of being dissolved in the bladder.

uſe

uſe them of a larger ſize, as the urethra becomes dilated, and is accuſtomed to bear them. They ought alſo to be gently introduced, avoiding force as much as poſſible, and humouring the paſſage ſo as not to give pain, or fetch blood.

A knowledge of the force that may be neceſſary in paſſing a bougie cannot be acquired but by practice. Indeed the whole art of ſurgery is, in a great meaſure, acquired in this way. A man will learn more from ſeeing the operation once performed, or from having it done upon himſelf, than from twenty pages of deſcription.

The time that a bougie ſhould remain in the urethra muſt be regulated by the patient's feelings. Few people at firſt can bear to keep them in above half an hour; but, by cuſtom, they come to be able to let them continue for ſeveral hours, and ſome ſleep with them in all night. Walking and other exerciſe, while a bougie is in the urethra, ought to be avoided, as it is apt to hurt and inflame the parts.

Another mode of regulating the time for keeping a bougie in the urethra is the intention for which it is uſed. If it is introduced

only with a view to draw off the water, there is no occaſion for its remaining in, as the urine generally follows as ſoon as it is withdrawn. When the intention is to remove carruncles or ſtrictures, it ought to be kept in for ſeveral hours, or all night, if the patient can bear it.

In uſing a bougie great care ſhould be taken to prevent its ſlipping into the bladder, otherwiſe a painful and dangerous operation would be neceſſary for extracting it. This may always be prevented by bending about half an inch of the thicker end of the bougie, and tying a piece of narrow tape or packthread round it, of a ſufficient length to prevent its getting into the bladder; or, if it ſhould ſlip in, to draw it out again.

A bougie ought always to be tried before it is introduced, by bending it the whole length with the finger, ſo as to be ſatisfied that it is elaſtic and tough at every part. Whether they had been improperly formed, or kept till they were rotten, I do not know; but I have ſeen bougies, when attempted to be bent, ſnap like a bit of glaſs. The beſt way to have them genuine, is to apply to a perſon of character

racter who makes them himself, and to pay the best prices, as they are sold at very different rates; but cheap articles of this kind are never to be trusted; indeed, in every thing belonging to medicine, whatever is sold low, is generally doubtful.

OF THE SWELLED TESTICLE.

A swelling of the testicle is not peculiar to the gonorrhœa. I have seen it where no such disease ever had existed: but as it frequently occurs during the progress of this disease, and is a very troublesome symptom, we shall mark its progress, and point out the most likely means for lessening the pain, and removing the disorder.

Sometimes both testicles swell; but it more frequently happens only to one, though occasionally they are affected in turns. The first attack is very painful, but afterwards the pain is inconsiderable. The swelling at first is chiefly confined to one part of the testicle; afterwards, however, and sometimes in a very short space, it affects the whole. In the progress

greſs of the diſeaſe the teſticle becomes hard, the ſkin which covers it puts on an inflammatory appearance, and the pain is accompanied with a ſenſation as if the teſticle was moving or rolling about.

When the teſticle ſwells, the running generally abates. This leads people to imagine that the ſwelling is occaſioned by the matter falling on the teſticle; but it evidently proceeds from a transfer of the inflammation from the one part to the other, ariſing from ſympathy, or from irritation. Whatever is the cauſe, it ought to be removed with all poſſible ſpeed, as it has many diſagreeable conſequences, ſome of which continue for life, and even tend to deſtroy the power of procreation.

As the conſequences ariſing from an inflamed teſticle are dangerous in proportion to the degree of inflammation that takes place, our great aim muſt be to keep the inflammation as much under as poſſible. This will be beſt effected by keeping the body gently open, applying anodynes and repellents to the parts affected, uſing opiates internally, and leeches externally.

It has been already obſerved that in all local inflammations one of the beſt remedies is bleeding. In full habits blood may be taken from the arm; but it will have a better effect if taken from the part, or as near to it as poſſible. This may be done by applying leeches to the ſcrotum. I ſhall be told that, as the bite of a leech cannot reach the teſticle, it will be of no uſe; but reaſoning is of little weight againſt daily obſervation. Long experience has taught me the benefits of this practice; and I will venture to ſay, it is both the ſafeſt and beſt remedy for the inflamed teſticle with which we are yet acquainted.

What firſt led me to try this practice was the caſe of an officer of the army, who had the misfortune to get a ſwelled teſticle a few days before he was obliged to embark with his regiment for the Weſt Indies. Something was to be done immediately: I ordered as many leeches as conveniently could, to be applied to the ſcrotum, and to be renewed occaſionally, as circumſtances might require. By this means the ſwelling and inflammation had

had ſo far ſubſided in three or four days, that he was able to attend to his duty.

When the bleeding is properly conducted, there will be little occaſion for any other medicine. It will be neceſſary, however, to keep the body gently open, by ſuch things as are recommended in the gonorrhœa. When the pain is very intenſe, from twenty-five to thirty, or thirty-five drops of laudanum may be taken in a little of the patient's drink, twice a a day, or oftener, if neceſſary, to eaſe the pain.

Repellent applications are recommended, and may have their uſe. Some apply cloths dipped in brandy, others uſe a mixture of Goulard's extract and water, a tea-ſpoonful to a tea-cupful, or ſo; while many prefer poultices, made with the extract or ſugar of lead: I think a poultice of oat-meal, or of rye-meal and vinegar, equal to any of them.

OF GLEETS.

In the gonorrhœa a diſcharge from the urethra will, in ſome caſes, continue after the ſymptoms of inflammation have diſappeared. This

This is commonly known by the name of a *gleet*, and often proves very obſtinate. While the diſcharge is capable of communicating the infection, it cannot properly be called a gleet; but it is difficult to determine the preciſe time when this takes place: Some ſuppoſe, when the diſcharge becomes tranſparent and viſcid, like mucus, that it ceaſes to be infectious, while others affirm, that, notwithſtanding theſe appearances, the infection may ſtill remain.

While the inflammation, which produced the running, continues, there is reaſon to ſuſpect that the infection is not ſubdued, and that the matter then diſcharged is equally capable of communicating the diſeaſe as at the beginning. Till, therefore, the diſcharge becomes clear and tranſparent, and the pain which accompanied the inflammatory ſtate of the diſeaſe has entirely ceaſed, we can never be certain that the gonorrhœa is radically cured.

Sometimes the diſcharge will entirely diſappear, and the patient think himſelf well, when, from irregularity, violent exertions, riding on horſeback, too early commerce with

women, or ſuch-like, the running will break out again, with every mark of a freſh infection: But when the patient has no reaſon to ſuſpect that he has caught the diſeaſe anew, he has no occaſion to be uneaſy at this appearance; as it will ſoon ceaſe on a re-application of the medicines which ſtopped it before.

When people find that this diſcharge does not communicate infection, they are apt to be indifferent, and to let it run on without uſing any means to put a ſtop to it. This, however, is wrong, as a long continuance of the running, not only weakens the ſyſtem, but lays the foundation of ſome affections of the urethra and neighbouring parts, which may prove very troubleſome and obſtinate.

This complaint furniſhes a ſtrong argument in favour of aſtringent injections, as it is often the conſequence of a long-continued gonorrhœa. Indeed the beſt method of cure, in its moſt obſtinate ſtate, is by injections. Aſtringents taken by the mouth have, no doubt, their uſe; but the moſt efficacious medicines, after all, are thoſe which belong to the claſs of aſtringent injections.

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Though aſtringents, taken internally, are uſeful, yet they are not ſolely to be relied upon. Among theſe we reckon the bark and ſteel, either taken ſeparately or conjunctly. They may be uſed in the follow manner:

Take Huxham's tincture of the bark, three ounces.

Tincture of ſteel, two drams. Mix, and take a tea-ſpoonful in a glaſs of red wine, three or four times a day.

Or, if the patient prefers a pill---

Take filings of ſteel prepared, one dram.

Extract of Peruvian bark, two drams.

Oil of carraway ſeeds, twenty-five drops.

Let theſe be made into thirty pills, one of which may be taken three or four times a day.

External aſtringents, which ought rather to be called tonics, have alſo their uſe. The principal of theſe is the cold bath; but what I chiefly recommend is ſea-bathing. This is not only more ſafe than the freſh water bath, as the patient is not ſo apt to take cold; but as obſtinate venereal complaints are often accompanied with a ſcrophulous taint, it may prove doubly uſeful.

We have few better tonics than the Tunbridge waters. As they prove beneficial to women afflicted with the whites, we may conclude that they would be of uſe in gleets. They ought, however, to be drunk with caution, as they prove heating, if taken in large quantities. Thoſe who drink them ought likewiſe to live regularly. I have known much miſchief done by uſing theſe waters, and at the ſame time making free with wine.

The ſtimulating aſtringent balſams are likewiſe recommended in the gleet; as the balſam of Capaïba, the Canada balſam, &c. From twenty to thirty drops of either of theſe may be taken on a bit of ſugar four or five times a day. But what I have found to anſwer ſtill better than the balſams, is the tincture of Catechu. A tea-ſpoonful of it may be taken in a glaſs of red wine three or four times a day.

When tonics and injections fail, ſometimes bougies will ſucceed. They anſwer nearly the ſame purpoſe as ſtimulating injections, and are more ſafe. Bougies, compoſed of the moſt ſimple ingredients, will often effect the purpoſe of exciting a ſufficient degree of inflammation:

But,

But, if they ſhould fail, they are eaſily rendered more active by dipping them in oil of turpentine, in a thin liniment of wax and oil, with a ſmall proportion of red precipitate, or in common baſilicon, reduced, with oil of turpentine, to the conſiſtence of a liniment.

There is reaſon to believe that the moſt efficacious medicine for this complaint is the cold bath; but few patients have the reſolution to perſiſt in the uſe of it for a ſufficient length of time. I have been told by a gentleman who had been afflicted with a gleet for above twenty years, that he had often put a ſtop to it, for ſome time, by bathing in cold water; but that not having ſufficient reſolution to perſiſt in it, the complaint had always returned. This gentleman, though very diſſipated, had, at the time I ſaw him, a wife and ſome healthy children; which ſhews that the diſeaſe does not prevent procreation.

OF WARTS AND EXCORIATIONS.

Warts ſometimes affect the glans and prepuce on the termination of a gonorrhœa. They

They are more troubleſome than dangerous, and may generally be removed by the application of cauſtics: Of theſe the moſt gentle are firſt to be tried, and, if they fail, recourſe muſt be had to the more active. I have often cut them off with a pair of ſharp ſciſſars.

When excoriations happen, they only require the application of ſome aſtringent waſh. Bathing the parts frequently with a ſolution of white vitriol, or a mixture of Goulard's extract in water, of the ſame ſtrength as that recommended in the gonorrhœa, will anſwer every purpoſe.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

OF THE LUES VENEREA, OR POX.

THIS dreadful diſorder, which makes ſuch havoc of the human ſpecies, when neglected, is generally ſo gentle at its firſt appearance, and ſo very tractable, that there is no diſeaſe where the practitioner gets ſo much money and credit for doing ſo little: But that little muſt be done in due time, otherwiſe the diſeaſe acquires a force, which the moſt ſkilful phyſician is not always able to overcome.

The lues venerea is generally introduced into the ſyſtem by means of a chancre. If this is properly treated, the diſeaſe ſeldom proceeds any farther; but, where it is neglected, it will produce the pox, and a train of dreadful conſequences. If all theſe conſequences can be prevented by a proper treatment of the chancre,

chancre, on its firſt appearance, it will amount to nearly the ſame as eradicating the lues venerea altogether. How far this is practicable will appear from the following obſervations.

For the laſt twenty years, I do not think one day has paſſed on which I have not ſeen the venereal diſeaſe in one ſhape or other; yet during all that period I do not recollect one inſtance of a patient, who applied to me, on the firſt appearance of a chancre, becoming poxed. Though a chancre is the origin of, and will ſeldom fail to produce a pox, if ſuffered to take its courſe, yet it cannot, with propriety, be called a pox, any more than the perſon, who has been inoculated for the ſmall pox, can be ſaid to labour under that diſeaſe before it appears in the habit.

Though chancres are not confined to any particular part of the body, yet they generally appear on the glans or prepuce, and frequently on the frenum which joins the two together. Sometimes I have ſeen them on the back of the penis, and even on the ſcrotum and pubis. When chancres appear on other parts, as the fingers, lips, &c. the infection has not been received in the common way, but by

by means of a wound, or by ſome of the ſofter parts coming into contact with a venereal ulcer.

The period at which chancres appear, after impure connexion, is uncertain. They generally make their appearance in a few days; though ſometimes weeks elapſe before the patient is informed, by a chancre, that he has received the infection. This may depend on the irritability of the parts to which the poiſon is applied, on the degree of acrimony with which the matter is endued, or on the quantity lodged on the part.

Though chancres aſſume different appearances, a perſon accuſtomed to look at them will ſeldom be deceived. To others a definition would be of little uſe. Every perſon muſt know when he has been in danger of catching the infection. If, in a few days after a ſuſpicious connexion, he perceives a ſmall ſpeck of a pale reddiſh colour on the parts where chancres commonly appear, and if this ſpeck gradually becomes a ſmall boil, which afterwards burſts into an ulcer, he has reaſon to believe that the infection has taken

place, and that he has been inoculated* for the greater pox.

Sometimes there is only one chancre; but they more frequently come in cluſters, and often run into one another, ſo as to cover almoſt the whole prepuce, and give the appearance of a foul ſpreading ulcer. Theſe ulcers generally have callous edges, and diſcharge a thin ichor. In this, however, as well as in their ſize, they differ widely from one another. The moſt certain criterion of a venereal ulcer is, that, inſtead of healing like another ſore, it ſpreads and grows worſe, unleſs where mercury is adminiſtered. If under the uſe of this medicine the ſore ſhews a diſpoſition to heal, there is little reaſon to doubt of its being venereal.

Though chancres, under proper treatment, ſoon put on a healing appearance; yet, in

* There is a wonderful similarity in the progress of the infection in the lues venerea and inoculated small pox. If a small quantity of matter taken from a pustule on the point of a lancet is introduced under the cuticle, in two or three days a small speck of a reddish colour appears, which gradually becomes a pock. The matter of this pock, taken up the lymphatics, and carried into the system, communicates the disease.

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ſome caſes, owing perhaps to the patient's conſtitution, or the peculiar virulence of the matter, they will ſpread, become phagedenic, or eating ulcers, and deſtroy, not only the glans, but even the whole penis. As this never happened to any patient who had been under my care from the commencement of the diſeaſe, I am inclined to think it is owing either to improper treatment or neglect.

Some authors think that theſe corroding chancres are owing to the peculiar acrimony of the matter by which the infection was communicated; but to me this matter appears doubtful. I have found theſe chancres, even where they had deſtroyed a part of the penis, yield to a proper treatment as readily as any other. That the matter which produces the lues may poſſeſs different degrees of acrimony, I will not pretend to deny; but that this will not account fairly for its effects on different habits, is preſumable from what happens in other diſeaſes. Twenty patients inoculated for the ſmall pox with matter taken from the ſame perſon, ſhall each of them have the diſeaſe in a different degree, and to ſome one of them it ſhall prove fatal.

OF THE TREATMENT OF CHANCRES.

The firſt caution which I ſhall give concerning chancres, is to keep them eaſy, and free from all irritation. The cure of a chancre may be greatly retarded by walking, riding, or violent exerciſe of any kind. Theſe not only tend to fret the ſore, but to increaſe the inflammation, and promote the abſorpion of the virus, to diffuſe it more quickly over the ſyſtem, and to render the diſeaſe both more dangerous and difficult of cure.

The next caution concerns the patient's mode of living. There is no occaſion for ſtarving a patient during the cure of a chancre; but ſome reſtraint ſhould be put upon his appetite. No perſon ſhould indulge in wine and a luxurious diet during a courſe of mercury; otherwiſe he will not only retard the cure, but endanger an hemorrhage, by keeping up too great a plethora, or fulneſs of the veſſels.

An important rule with regard to the treatment of chancres is, to keep them clean. This alone would go far to prevent all the miſchief done by what are called corroding

chancres.

chancres. The diſcharge from a wound acts as a kind of balſam, and promotes the cure; whereas the matter thrown out by a chancre is generally of an acrid nature, and corrodes the parts with which it comes into contact. The more frequently, therefore, this matter is removed, the better.

I have often found the penis ſo corroded by theſe eating chancres as to be almoſt deſtroyed. In ſuch caſes I order the ſores to be waſhed ſeveral times a day with milk and water a little warm, applied by means of a ſyringe; and, when waſhed, to be filled with dry lint. After the lint has ſtayed in for ſome hours, and has become moiſt by abſorbing the matter, I order it to be taken out, the ſores again waſhed, and the lint to be applied as before. By this treatment, and the uſe of mercury, I have always been able to ſtop the progreſs of any corroding chancre that came under my care, and I have reaſon to think it always might be done.

To a patient who has got a chancre, my firſt advice is, to keep it clean. This he can eaſily do by means of a ſyringe, or a rag dipped in lukewarm water. The part may afterwards

afterwards be dried by preſſing it gently with a ſoft rag. I never apply any healing ſalve to a chancre; it will always heal of itſelf, provided a ſufficient quantity of mercury is thrown into the ſyſtem. Should it be healed by any other means, the conſequences might be dangerous.

When the chancres are dried up ſuddenly, there is always reaſon to dread ſome bad conſequences. Inſtead of ſkinning over the chancre, and making the patient believe he is cured, a practice but too common, I generally endeavour to keep it open, eſpecially when it ſeems diſpoſed to heal quickly. I think it is ſafer practice not to uſe any eſcharotics, as they tend to heal the chancres too ſoon, and to excite buboes. When the chancres ſeem diſpoſed to ſpread, I generally order them to be ſprinkled with calomel, which is one way of throwing mercury into the ſyſtem.

On the very firſt appearance of the chancre I begin to throw in the mercury in whatever form is moſt agreeable to the patient. If he prefers a pill, I order him to take two grains of calcined mercury, made into a pill with crumb of bread, evening and morning. If his mouth

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is not ſore in a few days, he may take two pills at night, and one in the morning; and if theſe do not excite ſome degree of ſalivation, two may be taken morning and evening.

I ſeldom find more than four grains in the day neceſſary to make the mouth ſore; and, after it has been made ſore, one grain or two a day will generally be ſufficient to keep it ſo: I ſay keep it ſo; for whatever boaſting quacks may pretend, if the mercury does not make the mouth ſore, and if the ſoreneſs is not kept up for ſome time, the cure is not to be depended on.

Should the pills gripe, or run off by ſtool, it will be neceſſary to correct them by adding the quarter of a grain of opium to each pill. If the bowels are ſo tender as not to retain them even when corrected, the mercurial ointment muſt be uſed in their ſtead. It is fortunate for thoſe who cannot take mercury by the mouth, or whoſe bowels will not bear it, that it can be adminiſtered by the ſkin with equal, if not greater effect.

The patient may begin with a dram * of the ointment every day, which is to be rubbed into the inner ſide of the thigh with a warm

* In the apothecary's ounce there are eight drams.

hand

hand before the fire. Should the ſkin become inflamed and tender, the part muſt be changed; and if the patient is not able to rub it in ſufficiently himſelf, he muſt employ ſome other perſon to do it for him. The quantity of ointment may be gradually increaſed to two drams a day; one half to be uſed at night, and the other in the morning.

It is impoſſible to aſcertain beforehand the exact quantity of ointment that will be neceſſary to perform a cure. It ought, however, to be continued till the ſymptoms diſappear, and for ſome time longer, as it is better to go a little beyond the mark than to leave any remains of the diſorder in the ſyſtem. It is ſeldom we can truſt to fewer than thirty or forty drams; and, in many caſes, double that number will be neceſſary before the ſymptoms diſappear.

Though the mouth ought to be kept tender for ſome time, it is not the ſore mouth that cures the diſeaſe; that is only a mark of the ſyſtem's being impregnated with the medicine. Under theſe circumſtances, if the ſymptoms diſappear, we have reaſon to conclude that the patient is cured; but, for the greater ſecurity, the medicines ought always to be perſiſted in for ſome time longer.

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Though a chancre will generally produce a pox, yet, if the preceding courſe is duly perſiſted in, this will ſeldom be the caſe; at leaſt I have ſeen few inſtances of its having happened. I muſt therefore conclude, that when a pox is the conſequence of a chancre, it is, generally ſpeaking, either the fault of the patient, or of his phyſician; as this dreadful malady may, in moſt caſes, be prevented by proper medicines, duly perſiſted in, during, what I call, the chancred ſtate. Improper treatment, or neglect, during this period of the diſeaſe, does moſt of the miſchief.

OF THE PHYMOSIS AND PARAPHYMOSIS.

When the foreſkin is ſo contracted, that the glans cannot be uncovered, the diſeaſe is called a phymoſis; and, when the contraction is formed behind the glans, ſo as the ſkin cannot be brought forward, it goes by the name of a paraphymoſis: Though, generally ſpeaking, theſe ſymptoms accompany a venereal taint, yet they may both exiſt where there is no in-

fection of that kind; but, when this is the caſe, they are not ſo dangerous.

I have ſeen the phymoſis in ſuch a degree, where there was not the leaſt ſymptom of infection, that it was neceſſary to lay open the prepuce, to enable the patient to paſs his urine. This patient had ſymptoms of the gravel, and ſuch a continual itching in the point of his penis, that he could not refrain from rubbing it. This ſeemed to be the cauſe of the contraction, which was ſo great, that he could not paſs one drop of water without uſing a knitting-needle to remove the fœculent matter that ſtopped up the paſſage.

Theſe parts are ſo differently formed, in different men, that ſome may be ſaid to have a natural phymoſis, while others have the reverſe. I have ſeen the foreſkin ſo long, that above three inches of it were amputated, in order to uncover the glans; in others, the glans never is covered, but remains expoſed during life. Neither of theſe is attended with any conſiderable degree of inconvenience, unleſs in a diſeaſed ſtate. When inflammation occurs, in ſuch a conſtruction of the parts, ſtrictures are more likely to be formed, and

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are likewiſe with more difficulty removed, than in patients where the prepuce moves eaſily over the glans.

There is a ſpecies of phymoſis, owing to conſtruction, which I have found it neceſſary to remove, though not accompanied with any diſeaſe: I mean, where the frenum adheres to the glans all the way to the mouth of the urethra. This not only impedes the buſineſs of generation, but, when diſeaſe takes place, it proves highly inconvenient, as the ſimple operation of ſeparating it from the glans cannot then be performed, on account of the inflammation and ſwelling: Nor can the glans be completely uncovered while this adheſion remains.

Caſes of paraphymoſis likewiſe occur without infection. A feeble old man had drawn back the prepuce behind the glans, and not being able to return it, was ſuffered to remain in this ſituation for above a week, though daily viſited by a country ſurgeon. Notwithſtanding a conſiderable degree of inflammation and ſwelling had taken place, I was able to remove the complaint, without an inciſion, in leſs than a quarter of an hour. Had the ſtricture con-

tinued much longer, a mortification muſt have enſued; yet the patient was never apprized of his danger *.

I have known ſome young men bring on a violent paraphymoſis by their own improper conduct. One who had pulled back the ſkin, and kept it there till it could not be returned without making inciſions on both ſides, ſaid he did it on purpoſe to keep the glans cool. In this caſe, though the ſtricture was removed, yet the glans was never completely covered, and the foreſkin remained thickened, which, in all probability, will be the caſe during the patient's life.

Though every method ſhould be uſed to keep the glans clean by injections, and cool by fomentations, poultices, &c., yet no attempt ſhould be made to draw the ſkin forcibly back, till the inflammation has abated; otherwiſe, in all probability, a ſtricture will be formed be-

* Boys frequently bring on a disorder similar to this by slipping rings over the glans: Not being able to bring them back, a violent inflammation ensues, which cannot be removed, unless the ring is cut or broken, a thing not easily effected when it is deep sunk in the flesh. The boy, either from fear or shame, is generally deterred from making his situation known till the case becomes extremely dangerous.

hind

hind the glans, which will be more dangerous and difficult to remove than the former.

A phymoſis frequently occurs in gonorrhœa; but the moſt dangerous is that which ariſes from a chancre concealed under the prepuce. This, if neglected, will not only keep up the inflammation and thickening of the prepuce, but will corrode the glans, and even the body of the penis, ſo as totally to deſtroy the powers of generation, and of connubial enjoyment.

As a phymoſis from a venereal cauſe is always accompanied with inflammation, our great aim muſt be to remove that, or to prevent its running too high. To effect theſe important purpoſes, the patient ought to avoid all violent exertions, to live temperate, or rather low, to bleed, and uſe cooling purges, with emollient applications to the parts affected. The genitals ſhould be ſuſpended in a proper bandage, and the penis frequently ſoaked in warm milk and water: The glans ought likewiſe to be cleaned by throwing up ſome milk and water with a ſyringe between it and the prepuce ſeveral times a day.

Where theſe things are duly perſiſted in, the inflammation may generally be kept under, and in time removed; but if neglected, and the inflammation ſuffered to run on, much miſchief may enſue. Moſt of the caſes which have come under my eye, where the penis was materially injured, belonged to this claſs, and the injury had been occaſioned either by the improper conduct of the patient, or the inattention of thoſe who had the care of him.

A man of an inflammatory habit, and very irregular in his mode of living, while afflicted with a virulent gonorrhœa, went to a feaſt in the country, where ſome athletic games were celebrated: He excelled in running, wreſtling, and playing at foot-ball. Not contented with coming off conqueror at all of theſe, he muſt likewiſe be the hero of the bottle, to accompliſh which he ſat up all night, and, according to the vulgar phraſe, laid all his companions under the table. The conſequence was a violent inflammation, which did great injury to the parts, and had nearly coſt him his life.

For the conſequences of ſuch conduct, men have themſelves only to blame: But ſometimes the Faculty are in fault. A few days ago

ago I attended an operation, which evinced the danger of ſuffering chancres to lie concealed under the prepuce. A young man, who had been eight months under the care of a ſurgeon, and, during all that time, had been ſwallowing mercury for the cure of a phymoſis, was ſo far from getting better, that he grew daily worſe. Night and day he was racked with extreme pain, till at length, worn down to a ſhadow, he was adviſed to apply to me.

Convinced that his pain was occaſioned by concealed chancres, I deſired my ſon to lay open the prepuce to the very bottom of the glans, when all that appeared of this part of the penis was about the ſize of a common pea. The patient, in leſs than a fortnight, without taking one grain of mercury, was perfectly well. Had this operation not been performed, the young man muſt have been totally deprived of his virility, and probably of his life. This is not the only time I have ſeen the operation attended with equal ſucceſs.

Whenever a patient finds a phymoſis prove obſtinate, and is tortured with pain, he has reaſon to ſuſpect that ſome bad work is going on under the prepuce. It is then time to take

further

further advice; and, if an inciſion is recommended by a man of experience and obſervation, it ought to be performed without delay. I am no friend to operations where they can be avoided; but in ſuch caſes delays are dangerous.

I am inclined to think, if due attention were paid to fomentations, poultices, emollient injections, &c. inciſions would ſeldom be neceſſary; but people are very apt to neglect things that are in their own power, and truſt to medicine, which they think poſſeſſes a ſpecific virtue to remove this complaint, under whatever form it may appear. This, however, is a great miſtake: The parts of generation are often deſtroyed where immenſe quantities of mercury have been taken.

If, after all endeavours, the prepuce cannot be drawn back, and if livid-coloured ſpots ſhould appear on the outſide, the foreſkin ſhould be immediately cut aſunder, and the ulcers laid open. Many people think the very name of an inciſion implies mutilation; in this caſe, however mutilation ſeldom takes place, but from the neglect of inciſions.

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The paraphymoſis, during the ſtate of inflammation, muſt be, in all reſpects, treated as the phymoſis. The prepuce muſt, if poſſible, be brought over the glans, by pulling it forward with the hand, and, at the ſame time, compreſſing the glans, and puſhing it backwards with the fingers. This operation will be greatly aſſiſted by the uſe of ſome oil or ſoft liniment.

To leſſen the inflammation, low diet, bleeding, ſoft poultices, and emollient fomentations, are to be uſed in the ſame manner as for the phymoſis. In both caſes I have always experienced the greateſt advantage from the application of leeches: Nor do I recollect to have ſeen any bad conſequences from them.

Should all attempts to bring the foreſkin over the glans fail, and there is danger of a mortification taking place, it will be neceſſary to make inciſions quite through the folds of the prepuce, in order to prevent a ſtrangulation and conſequent mortification of the part. In ſome caſes of ſtrangulation, the glans abſolutely drops off, and the patient is relieved by an effort of nature without an operation.

I am inclined to think that moſt, if not all, of the baneful conſequences ariſing from the paraphymoſis, might be prevented by a ſufficient attention to the diſeaſe in its firſt ſtages. Were the patient careful to avoid cold, hard drinking, and violent exertions, during the inflammatory ſtate, he would ſeldom have occaſion to regret the mangling and maiming which may afterwards be neceſſary to ſave his life.

I have dwelt the longer on theſe ſymptoms, becauſe they are rather ſlightly paſſed over by moſt writers on this ſubject; and likewiſe becauſe I have ſeen more miſchief occaſioned by neglecting them, than any other ſymptoms of the venereal diſeaſe. Theſe occur in the early ſtages of the diſorder; and the novice in the venereal practice ſuffers them to run on till they become not only more than a match for his ſkill, but ſometimes ſufficiently formidable even to the moſt experienced veteran of the Faculty.

It is neceſſary to obſerve, that where ſymptoms of ſyphilis, or pox, prevail, which is generally the caſe both in the phymoſis and paraphymoſis, it will be proper to adminiſter mercury in the ſame manner as is recommended under the treatment of Chancre.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF CURE.

MANY medicines have been recommended in the cure of lues venerea, ſome of which have been deemed ſpecifics; but none of them, except mercury, is entitled to that appellation, or has ſtood the teſt of time. This medicine may be truly called a ſpecific. When duly adminiſtered in the lues venerea, it will be found almoſt infallible. When mercury fails in making a cure, it is either owing to its being badly prepared, or improperly adminiſtered. A cure is not to be expected from the uſe of mercury, after the parts neceſſary for carrying on the functions of life have been deſtroyed. Theſe cannot be reſtored by mercury, and the patient muſt die. I have been conſulted for a man, the half of whoſe face was eaten away

by the pox, and part of the brain laid bare. No one would blame mercury if it did not ſucceed in ſuch a caſe.

When, by repeated poxes, the conſtitution has been deſtroyed, and the powers of life exhauſted, mercury cannot be expected to reſtore them; but while there is a conſtitution to work upon, this medicine will do wonders. I have known it ſucceed even where a conſumption, ariſing from a venereal taint, had made great progreſs; and Mr. Bell ſays, he has ſeen the aſthma, rheumatiſm, epilepſy, and lunacy itſelf, when induced by the venereal taint, yield to mercury.

It is now a common practice to adminiſter mercury as an alterative. This manner of taking mercury muſt meet the wiſhes of moſt patients; but, to uſe an old ſaying, there is reaſon to fear "it is ſhutting the door while the thief remains in the houſe." It is a pleaſant thing for a man to hear that he may go about his buſineſs, may eat and drink what he pleaſes, go abroad in all weathers, and be radically cured of a confirmed pox.

The delicate beau, who would not, for the world, have his breath ſmell, will graſp at a method

method of cure without affecting the mouth. Such a method may ſucceed now and then, but I would not adviſe any one to truſt to it. Till the mouth is affected, we can never be certain that the mercury has entered the ſyſtem; and, unleſs the ſyſtem is ſaturated, the effects are ſeldom permanent.

I do not mean to recommend the old practice of exhibiting mercury, ſo as to raiſe a violent ſalivation. This was productive of many bad conſequences, and is by no means neceſſary. All the purpoſes of mercury may be anſwered in a much milder way: I mean by a gentle ſalivation; or a moderate degree of ſoreneſs of the mouth being kept up for a conſiderable length of time.

If man could keep a medium, he would be perfect; but this is not in his nature: He flies from one extreme to another, and is equally wrong in both. This has been ſtrictly the caſe with regard to the exhibition of mercury. Many conſtitutions have been ruined by puſhing it too far; and now effects equally hurtful are produced from its being too ſparingly adminiſtered. We are, therefore, to follow a middle courſe, and, if poſſible, to avoid the

the bad conſequences ariſing from either of the extremes.

All attempts to aſcertain the preciſe mode of operation of mercury, in the cure of lues venerea, have hitherto proved abortive: Nor would it be of much importance were it known. To eſtabliſh the character of a medicine, it is ſufficient to know, that, exhibited in a given quantity for a certain length of time, it will remove a diſorder, which, without it, would prove deſtructive to the patient.

There is no ſtandard by which we can fix the exact quantity of mercury neceſſary for effecting a cure. The difference of conſtitutions is ſuch, that what will cure in one caſe, will not be ſufficient in another; beſides, there are many other circumſtances, as age, ſex, climate, conſtitution, ſituation in life, and ſuch like, that muſt be taken into conſideration in the adminiſtration of mercury.

Mercury is, notwithſtanding, the moſt certain medicine with which we are acquainted. Even the bark is not ſo ſure to ſucceed in intermitting fevers as mercury in the cure of the venereal diſeaſe: But the ſucceſs of both depends on the mode of exhibition. Bark may

may be taken for a twelvemonth without curing an ague; yet the ſame quantity, taken in the courſe of one month, will remove the diſeaſe.

The ſame rule holds with regard to mercury: Its effects cannot be eſtimated by the quantity given, without attending to the time in which it is adminiſtered. Indeed this rule applies to moſt medicines. If the patient begins with ſmall doſes, even of poiſons, he may uſe them till they loſe their effect, ſo as hardly to have any influence on the conſtitution.

Mercury, as a mineral, or taken in its crude ſtate, is almoſt inert: If it acts at all as a medicine, in this ſtate, its action depends chiefly on its weight and fluidity. Its virtues, as a medicine, muſt therefore depend on the modes of preparing it. Theſe, indeed, are manifold; but, as my practice is confined to a very few, I ſhall only take notice of them, and ſhall add a few obſervations relative to the modes of preparing, and of adminiſtering them in the different ſtages of the diſorder.

The preparations of mercury chiefly employed by me are, the ointment, the calcined mercury, the mild muriated mercury, the calomel, and the corroſive ſublimate: But, as I do not

not mean to inſtruct my readers in the chymical proceſſes for preparing medicines, but to recommend thoſe already prepared, all I have to obſerve is, that they ſhould be careful to purchaſe them from men of reputation, as no art affords more opportunities of ſophiſtication than chymiſtry.

Even the crude mercury is ſeldom to be obtained pure. It poſſeſſes the power of diſſolving other metals, and keeping them ſuſpended; for which reaſon it ought always to be purified before it is prepared into any form of medicine: But, ſuppoſing the mercury to be pure, even the moſt ſimple preparation of it is apt to be improperly made. Both the common pill and the ointment are prepared merely by trituration; but, as their whole virtue depends on the complete ſeparation of the globules, unleſs the trituration is continued for a very conſiderable length of time, the medicine is good for nothing *.

Though the mercurial ointment poſſeſſes many advantages over any other preparation

* I am convinced that no mode of preparing mercury is preferable to simple trituration; but, to separate the particles of this mineral sufficiently by trituration, especially in a dry form, would require more labour than, I fear, any chymist will be disposed to bestow upon it.

of

of mercury; yet the mode of applying it is ſo troubleſome and diſagreeable, that moſt patients wiſh to avoid it. No other mode of application, however, has yet been thought of, which effectually anſwers the ſame purpoſe. For this reaſon we muſt continue the uſe of the ointment, till time or obſervation ſhall diſcover a better mode of throwing mercury into the ſyſtem.

One of the greateſt inconveniences attending the adminiſtration of mercury is the effect it often has on the ſtomach and bowels. The bowels of many patients are quite unable to bear the mercury in ſuch quantity as is neceſſary to cure the diſeaſe. Indeed, when mercury runs off by ſtool, it is very apt to diſappoint the expectations of the phyſician; and the quantity of opium neceſſary to correct this tendency is often ſo great as to render the patient ſtupid and uncomfortable. Mercury will, no doubt, ſometimes affect the bowels, even when uſed externally; but this is not near ſo apt to happen as when the medicine is taken by the mouth.

Though the mercurial ointment has many advantages, and will ſucceed in moſt common

caſes, yet, in obſtinate venereal affections, I never truſt to it alone. I have ſeen nodes of long ſtanding yield to the calcined mercury, after an immenſe quantity of the ointment had been applied without any apparent benefit. A patient, who had loſt a great part of the penis, told me, that, by the advice of an eminent phyſician, he had uſed above ſixty drams of mercurial ointment without any benefit; yet this gentleman was perfectly cured by the corroſive ſublimate, accompanied with the Liſbon diet drink, in leſs than ſix weeks, and continues well to this day.

Though the corroſive ſublimate poſſeſſes great powers as a medicine, it is not ſo much in uſe as formerly. The taſte is highly diſguſting, and it is rather hurtful to the ſtomach and bowels. Where theſe effects can be obviated, it is an excellent medicine, particularly in venereal affections of the ſkin. The beſt way to prevent its hurting the ſtomach or bowels is, to accompany its uſe with ſome ſoft decoction made of farinaceous ſubſtances, as the decoction of ſarſaparilla, or what is called the Liſbon diet drink.

The

The moſt common preparation of mercury now in uſe, for the cure of the venereal diſeaſe, is calomel. Though inferior to the calcined or the muriated mercury, yet, in common caſes, it ſeldom fails to perform a cure. Being perfectly inſipid, it excites no nauſea, and may be given, even to infants, with great ſafety. As it is a cheap medicine, there is leſs danger of its being adulterated than thoſe which are ten times the value. It does not however follow, that calomel is never adulterated, though it might be imprudent here to mention the modes in which it is done.

I know no ſyphilitic taint that will not yield to one or other of theſe preparations, when applied in due time; but there are ſome auxiliaries, which, though they will not cure the diſeaſe, may nevertheleſs be of uſe, as either aiding the operation of the grand ſpecific, or preventing its doing injury to the ſtomach and bowels. The chief of theſe are, antimony, guiacum, ſarſaparilla, mezereon, and opium.

Guiacum has been highly extolled for the cure of lues venerea; but, ſince the powers of mercury were better known, it has loſt

much of its reputation, and is now uſed chiefly as an ingredient in the Liſbon diet drink. Some pretend to have had experience of its good effects in ulcers and blotches of the ſkin; but never having uſed it alone, I cannot vouch for its effects; nor would I adviſe any one to truſt to it for a cure, unleſs when accompanied with mercury.

Sarſaparilla has alſo been ſaid to have cured the venereal diſeaſe. It is given in powder, extract, and decoction. The laſt of theſe is the moſt common form in which it is adminiſtered, and is generally found to anſwer the beſt. I will not aſſert that it has any conſiderable effect on the cure of lues venerea, but I think it is friendly to the ſtomach and bowels; and ſome think it proves ſerviceable where mercury is found to have too great a tendency to run off by the mouth.

Of mezereon I can ſay little, never having uſed it but in combination with the two former articles. It is, however, an active, pungent medicine; and, when combined with things of a milder nature, may, no doubt, have its uſe. The root and bark are both employed,

eſpecially

eſpecially the latter, which is by far the moſt active part*. It is believed to have entered into the compoſition of Dr. Kennedy's Decoction, which is now ſuppoſed to have been nearly the ſame as the Liſbon diet drink: to which, judging from its effects, I ſhould think a little mercury, under ſome form, had been added.

In a decoction which I have long uſed, as an accompaniment to mercury, all theſe ingredients are combined, and I think form a better medicine than can be extracted from any one of them ſeparately. I have occaſionally uſed antimony in the crude ſtate; but, as this gives the decoction a very dirty appearance, of late I have added to each quart of the decoction a tea-ſpoonful of the antimonial wine, more or leſs, as the patient's ſtomach could bear.

Opium has likewiſe been recommended as an aid to mercury, in the cure of lues venerea, and ſome have gone ſo far as to ſay, that it poſſeſſes powers as an antiſyphilitic. I have not, however, been able to diſcover them: All the uſe I have ever found in opium was from

* A decoction of the bark is said to have proved successful in the cure of ulcers in the throat.

its

its ſedative effect in preventing the mercury from running off by the bowels. When the bowels are too irritable to retain mercury, it will not cure the diſeaſe. In this caſe opium may act as an auxiliary, by detaining the mercury in the ſyſtem.

OF THE PROPER REGIMEN DURING A COURSE OF MERCURY.

The ſucceſs of mercury is often fruſtrated by an improper regimen. Few men have ſufficient reſolution to break off their former habits of living while under a courſe of mercury. They will take the medicine, but cannot refrain from their uſual luxuries. I have often ſeen the cure protracted to twice the uſual time, when no other reaſon could be aſſigned but the patient's luxurious manner of living.

As any one ſtimulus may counteract another, why may not the ſtimulus of wine counteract that of mercury? I do not mean that a patient, under a courſe of mercury, is to live too low, neither do I approve of very copious evacuations

evacuations prior to the patient's entering on ſuch a courſe; nor indeed of any at all, provided the patient is not of a full or inflammatory habit. When that is the caſe, bleeding and purging may be neceſſary, as well as other evacuations. As far as my recollection goes, I think the cure of lues venerea goes on more ſlowly in fat than in lean patients.

Though the patient is not to be ſtarved under a courſe of mercury, yet there are ſome things that will diſagree with the ſtomach, and ought, therefore, not to be uſed: For example, all raw vegetables, and whatever is apt to turn ſour or rancid on the ſtomach, ought to be avoided. When the mercury is rubbed in, theſe cautions are leſs neceſſary; but at all times crude, acid vegetables, uſed freely, are injurious to the ſtomach and bowels.

Few things are more injurious to a patient, under a courſe of mercury than expoſure to cold. In a mild climate I ſhould think there was no occaſion for any confinement under a courſe of mercury; but with us, who have all the ſeaſons in a few days, and often even in one day, this is a matter of the greateſt importance. Patients get well under every kind

kind of treatment, but circumſtances of a very untoward nature are often occaſioned by cold. I am fully convinced that one half of the medicine generally uſed for curing the lues venerea would ſucceed, were patients confined to the houſe during a courſe of mercury*.

It has already been obſerved that one of the moſt diſagreeable effects of mercury is its tendency to run off by the bowels. No doubt this may be, in ſome meaſure, corrected by opium; but as few patients like to take that drug, I would again beg leave to recommend a due attention to warmth. While a ſufficient degree of perſpiration is kept up, mercury will ſeldom fall on the bowels. No ſooner, however, is this evacuation checked, than the bowels are affected. All the patient's food and drink ought to be a little warm, and rather of eaſy digeſtion. When I recommend

* I am ſufficiently aware that many patients cannot keep the houſe while they are using mercury for curing the lues venerea; but these patients must lay their account with many inconveniences, and those sometimes of a very serious nature. Indeed most of the bad consequences, imputed to mercury, are, in my opinion, owing to taking cold. Some speculative writers have thought otherwise; but a long series of observation has convinced me that fluxes, fevers, and even madness, may be produced by cold under a course of mercury.

warmth,

warmth, I do not mean that the patient is to be kept in a profuſe ſweat: this, inſtead of promoting, would retard the cure, and weaken the patient to no purpoſe.

Few things are of more importance, during a courſe of mercury, than to regulate the patient's clothing. If linen is worn next the ſkin, it is not only cold and chilly, but, when moiſtened by the perſpiration, it becomes damp; and the moiſture is taken up by the abſorbent veſſels which open on the ſkin. It would be a good rule, if every perſon labouring under lues venerea were to wear flannel next the ſkin during the whole time of the cure.

It is not only neceſſary, during a courſe of mercury, to avoid every thing that is highly ſtimulating, as hot ſpices, high-ſeaſoned diſhes, and ſuch-like; but alſo all violent exertions of bodily ſtrength, as running, wreſtling, hard riding, &c.: nor is tranquillity of mind leſs neceſſary. All the bodily functions may be diſordered by violent paſſions; and when that is the caſe, the moſt powerful medicines will not have their proper effects on the ſyſtem.

OF BUBOES.

Buboes may ariſe from different cauſes; but we mean only to treat of the venereal bubo: this is generally ſeated in the groin, and is attended with ſwelling, pain, and inflammation of the part. The true ſyphilitic bubo is commonly preceded by a chancre on the glans or prepuce, though a chancre is not neceſſary to the production of a bubo: it is ſometimes, though ſeldom, the firſt ſymptom after impure coition. The bubo is generally ſingle, though ſometimes both groins are at once affected.

There is no occaſion to deſcribe the whole abſorbent ſyſtem to explain the theory of buboes. It is ſufficient to ſay, that every part of the body, both external and internal, is repleniſhed with abſorbent veſſels, whoſe open mouths take up more or leſs of every fluid that is applied to them. Theſe veſſels carry the venereal poiſon into the ſyſtem, and ſerve likewiſe to convey its antidote.

Whether the bubo ariſes from an immediate abſorption, without any previous local eruption, or from an abſorption from chancres,

or

or a virulent gonorrhœa, the ſymptoms are nearly the ſame. Some, indeed, ſuppoſe that the bubo may ariſe from the poiſon being conveyed from the maſs of blood, when univerſally tainted with the infection; but this opinion is by no means well founded. From whatever cauſe buboes proceed, they commonly hold the following progreſs:

A ſmall hard tumor is felt in one or both groins, accompanied with ſome degree of pain, though not acute; this tumor gradually increaſes, till it has arrived at maturity. When matter begins to be formed, the bubo becomes very painful, and ſometimes excites a ſlight degree of fever, which ſubſides when the ſuppuration of the bubo is completed. The ſize of buboes at the time of their ſuppuration is very different; ſome of them are not larger than a walnut, while others exceed the bulk of an hen's egg. The ſuppuration of the bubo will be quick, if it is attended with much pain; but, if not accompanied with great pain, its progreſs will be ſlow.

Buboes, in their firſt ſtage, may generally be diſperſed; by which much trouble, pain, and inconvenience to the patient will be prevent-

ed. But this method of treatment is, by ſome, believed to be dangerous: they ſuppoſe that a bubo is an effort of nature to carry off what they call the morbific matter of the diſeaſe; and that, by diſcuſſing it, the venereal poiſon is repelled, and thrown into the ſyſtem. On this ſuppoſition, it was formerly deemed good practice always to promote ſuppuration, and bring the bubo to diſcharge matter as ſoon as poſſible. But this practice is not founded on ſound reaſoning, and is by the more enlightened practitioners rejected.

In ſome of the moſt obſtinate venereal caſes which have fallen under my obſervation, the buboes have ſuppurated, and ſometimes in ſucceſſion; but I could never perceive that the ſuppuration tended to promote the cure, or to render mercury leſs neceſſary. Beſides, the ſores, occaſioned by the breaking or laying open of the buboes, prove often extremely troubleſome and difficult of cure. For theſe reaſons, I always, in the firſt inſtance, attempt the diſperſion of a bubo.

To effect this purpoſe, evacuants are in the firſt place to be uſed, as bleeding, purging, vomiting, &c. I have known one briſk purge carry

carry off a bubo*, and local bleeding has often had the ſame effect. This may be done by cupping or leeches: I generally prefer the latter. The ſores, indeed, occaſioned by the bite, are ſometimes ſlow in healing; but this is a ſlight inconvenience, when compared to the advantages derived from the bleeding. In full and inflammatory habits, the patient may loſe blood from the arm; but, in general, local bleeding ſucceeds better. Blood, taken from or near the part affected, will relieve the patient more, while it weakens him leſs, than a much greater quantity taken from the general maſs.

Some local applications ought to accompany the bleeding and purging, which are to be repeated according to circumſtances. I generally uſe repellent poultices, made with Goulard's extract, or the ſugar of lead; though ſome prefer the following ointment, as being leſs troubleſome:

* When a bubo diſappears in a few days, the quack imputes it to his great skill; and when it proves obſtinate, which will happen under the beſt treatment, the phyſician is blamed, when he is not in fault. Random cures often eſtabliſh the reputation of medicines which poſſeſs no real virtues, and fill the pockets of pretenders to phyſic, who are totally ignorant of that ſcience.

Take

Take of mercurial ointment, one ounce;
Goulard's extract, fifty drops;
Powder of opium, one ſcruple: mix them together according to art.

A little of this ointment may be rubbed on and near to the part affected, ſeveral times a day.

While theſe attempts are making to diſperſe the bubo, the patient muſt uſe an abſtemious regimen, avoiding all ſtrong and fermented liquors; alſo food of a heating or ſtimulating nature. The body muſt be kept gently open, and all violent exertions are to be avoided, as riding, running, wreſtling, and ſuch-like. This rule is of more importance than is generally imagined, as muſcular motion of every kind tends to increaſe inflammation.

During theſe attempts to diſperſe the bubo, the uſe of mercury is not to be omitted: it may be adminiſtered nearly in the ſame manner as for the chancre; only, that in this caſe ſome prefer the ointment to every other preparation of mercury. Their reaſon for giving it the preference is, that it can be applied near to the parts affected, and in ſuch a manner

manner as to be taken up by thoſe lymphatic veſſels which carry it immediately to the diſeaſed glands *.

If the means uſed for diſperſing the bubo ſhould not ſucceed, and the inflammatory ſymptoms run high, ſo that the ſuppuration ſeems unavoidable, they ſhould be diſcontinued, and proper medicines applied for promoting the ſuppuration. For this purpoſe, emollient fomentations and ripening poultices are proper: theſe may be ſoftened with ſweet oil or freſh butter, and applied to the bubo evening and morning. If it is found neceſſary to haſten the ſuppuration, raw onions may be bruiſed, and ſpread on the poultice.

To promote the ſuppuration, the patient may indulge in a more nouriſhing diet, and drink a moderate quantity of wine. If the pain is very great, to alleviate the irritation, and pro-

* The quantity of mercury necessary for the resolution of a bubo will be in proportion to its obstinacy; but care muſt be taken not to hurt the constitution. Mr. Hunter recommends half a dram of mercurial ointment, made with equal parts of quickſilver and hog's-lard, to be used every night. If the mouth is not affected in six or eight days, and the gland does not readily resolve, two scruples, or a dram, may be applied every night; and if there be no amendment, more must be rubbed in: in short, if the reduction proves obstinate, the mercury must be pushed as far as can be done without raising a violent salivation.

cure

cure reſt, he may take from half a grain to a grain of opium in a pill at bed-time. This will likewiſe tend to haſten the formation of matter, and ſhorten the inflammatory ſtage.

When the bubo has arrived at maturity, and matter is formed, the common practice is to open the abſceſs with a lancet, or by means of cauſtic; but it often happens, when the bubo is opened by theſe methods, that it is not perfectly ripe; but when Nature is left to make the opening in her own way, it always happens when it ought, and generally heals much ſooner, and with leſs inconvenience, than when opened either by inciſion or cauſtic.

As ſoon as the abſceſs is broken, the patient ought gently to preſs out the matter, endeavouring, at the ſame time, to enlarge the oriſice. If the diſcharge is thick, and the ſuppuration has not been tedious, there will be every reaſon to expect that the abſceſs will ſoon heal; but if the ſore diſcharges a thin ſharp ichor of a greeniſh colour, and its lips are ragged, and of a looſe, flabby appearance, the cure will prove both tedious and troubleſome.

After ſqueezing out the matter, a little of any digeſtive ointment may be applied to the ſore, on a bit of lint or ſoft rag, and the whole

covered

covered with a ſoft poultice. This may be renewed twice a day, preſſing out the matter very gently before it is applied. The ſore ought to be kept clean by waſhing it, every time the poultice is renewed, with milk and water a little warm. The time that may be neceſſary for healing the bubo cannot be aſcertained, as it depends entirely on the patient's conſtitution.

It ſometimes happens, after ſeveral weeks' trial of the above method of treatment, that the ſores grow worſe, and the patient's health and ſtrength decline. In this caſe it will be neceſſary to diſcontinue the mercury, and to put the patient on a light and nouriſhing diet, with an allowance of three or four glaſſes of ſound red port wine in the courſe of the day. The bark muſt alſo be taken in as large quantities as the ſtomach will bear it.

I have ſeen a patient ſo much weakened by the uſe of mercury, that he was not able to walk, or even to ſtand; yet, by going into the country, living on a light nouriſhing diet, and drinking the decoction of ſarſaparilla, with equal parts of new milk, he got well in a few weeks. If any ſymptoms of the diſorder re-

main after this courſe, it will be neceſſary to reſume the uſe of the grand ſpecific, mercury, as ſoon as the patient is able to bear it.

Though miſchief is, no doubt, done by puſhing the mercury too far, yet I am fully perſuaded that ten times more proceeds from leaving it off too ſoon. The patient tires of taking medicine, and the doctor, willing to indulge him, gives him permiſſion to deſiſt before the buſineſs is completed. Of this, I am ſorry to ſay, one meets with too many proofs to queſtion the fact.

OF VENEREAL ULCERS.

A venereal ulcer may appear on any part of the body, and is a ſure ſign that the poiſon has pervaded and infected every part of the ſyſtem. Theſe ulcers are uſually preceded by blotches, which appear firſt about the roots of the hair, or on the forehead, where they go by the name of a *corona veneris*. They gradually ſpread all over the body, and are attended with itching and ſome degree of pain. A venereal ulcer, though not very painful,

ful, quickly becomes deep, and even reaches the bone, which it renders foul. It diſcharges a thin, fœtid, corroſive matter; and cannot be cured but by a complete and well-conducted courſe of mercury.

It is of importance to diſtinguiſh the venereal from the common ulcer, as miſtakes in this matter may have ſerious conſequences, both with regard to the character of patients, and the method of cure. If the patient has reaſon to ſuſpect that the ulcer may be venereal; if its margin is hard, the ſurrounding ſkin preternaturally red, and the bottom covered with a white ſlough, there is ground to believe it is venereal. But the moſt certain concluſion may be drawn from the uſe of mercury: if the ulcer either appears, or grows worſe during the uſe of mercury, it is probably not venereal; but if it gets better under a proper courſe of mercury, there is little doubt of its belonging to that claſs.

Though a chancre, which is a venereal ulcer, generally appears on the genitals, yet thoſe ulcers which proceed from a contaminated ſtate of the whole ſyſtem, ſeldom affect the parts of generation: indeed, there is no

part of the ſurface of the body where they occur ſo ſeldom. This clearly proves, what we have before aſſerted, that the chancre is a local affection, and affords no proof that the ſyſtem is contaminated. Almoſt every chancre may be traced to a local application of the venereal poiſon; and when the poiſon can be arreſted in its progreſs, the ſyſtem will not be generally affected.

Though venereal ulcers are often preceded by blotches, yet this is not always the caſe: ſometimes they come without any previous eruption, and at other times a number of ſmall pimples riſe upon the ſkin, previous to the appearance of an ulcer. Nor is it uncommon for a ſlight degree of itchineſs only to be felt on the part, before the ulcer is perceived.

Venereal ulcers are generally pretty tractable, and heal almoſt as ſoon as other ſores, unleſs there is ſome fault in the patient's conſtitution. When this is the caſe, they often prove very obſtinate; and ſometimes even bid defiance to the great antidote, mercury. The habits, where venereal ulcers prove moſt obſtinate, are the ſcrofulous, and perſons deeply affected with the ſcurvy. As both theſe habits

bits are very common in this country, it is no wonder that venereal complaints ſhould ſo often prove tedious, and difficult to cure.

There ſeems to be ſome affinity between the pox and ſcrofula, that has not yet been defined: where the ſyſtem is deeply affected by the latter, the former will always be found obſtinate. I have known even a bubo, in ſuch a habit, continue for years before it could be cured, notwithſtanding the liberal uſe of mercury; and ſometimes ulcers, which ſeem to riſe from a venereal taint, and will not yield to mercury, may be cured by ſea-bathing, which is almoſt a ſpecific in ſcrofula.

Venereal ulcers often affect the throat. Sometimes an ulcer in this part is the firſt ſymptom of the diſeaſe; and, being miſtaken for a common ſore throat, it is often improperly treated. The ulcer generally makes its appearance on the glans called *amygdalæ*, from their reſemblance to almonds, with an eryſipelatous or reddiſh colour in the parts adjacent, and a buffy colour at the bottom. It is not, however, confined to theſe glans, but ſometimes attacks the *uvula*, tonſils, roof of the mouth, and other adjacent parts.

It

It is of the greateſt importance to be early acquainted with the nature of theſe ulcers, as they often ſpread rapidly; and, if not checked by mercury, they will corrode the parts on which they fix, and deſtroy the organs of deglutition. Where there is the leaſt reaſon to ſuſpect that ulcers of the throat may proceed from a venereal taint, the patient ought immediately to have recourſe to the beſt advice.

The firſt ſtep towards the cure of an ulcer in the throat is, to aſcertain its cauſe. One often meets with ulcerous throats in married women, which have been under the care of the family apothecary for many months, without any progreſs having been made towards a cure; the attendant either not ſuſpecting the real cauſe of the complaint, or not daring to inquire into it. The huſband, who takes care to get cured himſelf, and leaves his wife to find out her diſorder, and to get cured as ſhe can, is at once cruel and unjuſt.

A venereal ulcer ſometimes affects the womb. This too is apt to be miſtaken, and treated as a cancer. As it cannot be examined, like the ſore throat, the beſt and ſafeſt way

way is to conſider it as venereal, and to treat it accordingly. If it ſhould not yield to mercury and its accompaniments, the cauſe becomes doubtful. I would then recommend ſea-bathing, or the waters of BAREGES, as moſt likely to perform a cure.

In whatever part of the body a venereal ulcer appears, its cure muſt be attempted by mercury. Where this fails, there is reaſon to ſuſpect either that the ulcer is not truly venereal, or that it has aſſumed a different character, and requires a different mode of treatment. In this caſe, the patient's ſtrength muſt be reſtored by nouriſhing diet and generous wines. The uſe of tonic medicines, as the bark and ſteel, will likewiſe be proper; and, above all, we would always recommend cold ſea-bathing.

A variety of ointments, &c. have been recommended in the cure of venereal ulcers, but we lay no great ſtreſs upon them. The chief buſineſs is to keep the ſore clean, and to throw in the antidote as freely as the patient's conſtitution will bear it. A liſt of the moſt approved medicines for local application will, however,

however, be given in the Appendix, with directions for uſing them.

OF VENEREAL BLOTCHES, AND OTHER AFFECTIONS OF THE SKIN.

It has been obſerved, that venereal ulcers are often preceded by blotches. They, as well as the ulcer, prove that the ſyſtem is contaminated, and that the poiſon has diffuſed itſelf through the whole frame. There is no part of the body exempt from their attack, though they appear more frequently on ſome parts than on others. Some ingenious attempts have been made to account for this; but they are more ſpecious than ſolid.

Though blotches are ſometimes a primary ſymptom, yet I have more frequently found them a ſecondary one, and generally the effect of cold, when the body was charged with mercury, and the diſeaſe not totally ſubdued. The eruptions, in this caſe, have a very unſeemly appearance; but there is reaſon to believe, if the diſeaſe were not thrown upon

the

the ſkin, that the conſequences might be worſe.

A few years ago, a patient of mine, who had for ſome time been under a courſe of mercury, refuſed to take it any longer, becauſe it made his mouth ſore, and was attended with other inconveniences: contrary to my advice, he went down to the ſea-ſide; and, as it was the ſeaſon for bathing, like many others, without any precaution, he plunged headlong into the water, and ſwam about for his amuſement. How often this was repeated I do not know; but, on his return to town, he came to me with a face ſo covered with blotches, as hardly to reſemble the human figure. As theſe had every mark of venereal blotches, I was induced to put him under a freſh courſe of mercury, and to continue it till they diſappeared.

At preſent I have a gentleman under my care, who, during the ſevere froſt of laſt winter *, was taking mercury. I could not perſuade him to keep the houſe: he not only went abroad, but was very irregular in his manner of living. The conſequence was, an

* 1794-5.

univerſal eruption, or blotches all over, but particularly on the face. They are now going off by the uſe of mercury; but at one time they exhibited the appearance of a confluent ſmall pox, a little after the turn, ſo exactly, that any one, at firſt ſight, would have ſuppoſed the patient was juſt recovering from that loathſome diſeaſe. From the reſemblance I am inclined to think this diſeaſe took its name.

Venereal blotches are not attended with much pain; they excite, however, an itchineſs, which makes the patient reſtleſs and uneaſy. They often attack the points of the fingers, eſpecially under the nails; and, when ſuffered to proceed, a ſeparation takes place, and the nails as well as the cuticle fall off: indeed, whatever ſeparates the cuticle will take off the nails. When they attack the parts covered with hair, they not only prevent its growth, but frequently it falls off.

There are other cuticular eruptions, as the herpes, &c. which may be miſtaken for the venereal, by people not accuſtomed to ſee theſe things. Herpetic eruptions generally appear in a circular form, from whence they get the name

name of ring-worms. They are broader than the venereal blotches. Beſides, the herpes is more local than venereal eruptions, which often cover the greater part of the body. But they are beſt known from the circumſtances of the caſe, and the patient's manner of life.

Theſe, like other venereal affections, generally yield to a proper courſe of mercury; though ſometimes it is found neceſſary to call in the aid of antimony. This may either be done by adminiſtering Plummer's pill, or by adding ſuch a quantity of the antimonial wine, or of crude antimony, to the Liſbon diet drink, as will be directed in the Appendix.

Some have ſuppoſed, and not without reaſon, that the corroſive ſublimate, in affections of the ſkin, is preferable to the other preparations of mercury. In obſtinate caſes, where the other mercurial medicines have failed, it has often, in my practice, ſucceeded: indeed I have ſeldom known it to fail. It ought, however, to be adminiſtered with care; and it will be more ſafe, if accompanied with the decoction of ſarſaparilla.

Some recommend mercurial ointment, or lotions, to be applied externally; but I am no

friend either to wet or greaſy applications to the ſkin. When the eruptions are hot or uneaſy, I treat them in the ſame manner as the eryſipelas, by ſprinkling them with fine flour. Should the eruption, however, prove very obſtinate, an appropriated ointment may be applied, as directed in the Appendix.

OF THE VENEREAL NODE.

The venereal virus, when ſuffered to remain in the ſyſtem, faſtens at laſt on the bones; and, what is very remarkable, it commonly ſeizes on the moſt ſolid parts of the bones, and where they are moſt thinly covered with fleſh, as the ſhin-bones, the bones of the head, of the arm, &c. Nor is it leſs worthy of remark, that wherever it fixes, there it remains, and is never known to leave the part till it is deſtroyed, or the poiſon conquered.

The true node, which is a hard tumor riſing on a bone affected with the venereal virus, does not appear at an early period of the diſeaſe; but, in caſes where patients are expoſed to cold, or in damp ſituations, ſwellings of the muſcles,

muſcles, ligaments, and tendons, will appear ſoon after the infection has been received into the ſyſtem. Theſe, however, are not to be conſidered as genuine venereal nodes.

In the early ſtage of the diſeaſe, a venereal node occaſions little pain, and is, for that reaſon, often neglected; but as the tumor increaſes, ſo does the pain, till it ſometimes becomes quite excruciating. I had a patient, who was ſo tormented with a node, that he uſed to get out of bed, almoſt every night, and ſit for hours together with his leg immerſed in a pail of cold water. In ſuch caſes, ſome recommend an inciſion to be made as deep as the bone for the whole length of the node; but few patients will ſubmit to this operation, and I have always ſucceeded without it.

Sometimes theſe pains are miſtaken for the rheumatiſm, but they may eaſily be diſtinguiſhed: the rheumatiſm generally affects the joints, while the node riſes in the middle of the bone. Beſides, the rheumatiſm often changes its place, and even ſhifts from one joint to another; but the node, as has been already obſerved, is permanent.

The

The cure of nodes evinces the wonderful powers of mercury as a medicine. That it ſhould be able to purſue the enemy into his laſt retreat, and, when he has ſeized on the moſt ſolid parts of the ſyſtem, which he is ſure, if neglected, to deſtroy; I ſay, that, in this caſe, a few grains of mercury ſhould diſlodge the foe, and reſtore the patient to perfect health and ſoundneſs, is a thing ſcarcely credible.--- Yet it is ſo certain, that I do not recollect ever to have ſeen mercury fail in the cure of a node; and, even where the bones have become carious, and have exfoliated, the patient has received a complete cure, and has not only enjoyed perfect health himſelf, but been able to tranſmit a ſound conſtitution to his progeny.

In the cure of nodes, it is of the greateſt importance to apply the antidote as ſoon as poſſible: delay not only renders a greater quantity of mercury neceſſary, but endangers the bone. I do not recollect to have ſeen a bone become carious, or an operation neceſſary, where the mercury had been applied in due time and quantity.

The miſtake is generally made in this way: the patient puts himſelf under what he thinks proper

proper care; the ſymptoms diſappear, and he is declared to be cured. Some months, and ſometimes years, afterwards, a ſlight pain is felt, and perhaps ſome degree of ſwelling appears on the ſhin-bone: this is ſuppoſed to be rheumatic, and is of courſe neglected, till the poiſon has rendered the bone foul, and perhaps carious.

Every perſon who has had the lues venerea, ought to be on his guard with reſpect to the appearance of nodes; and, if he feels pain, or perceives any ſwelling on thoſe parts of the bone where nodes are known to riſe, he ought to have immediate recourſe to the antidote. Some, in this caſe, prefer the ointment, and even rub it on the part affected; but this I conſider as bad practice. The ointment will have the ſame effect if rubbed on the ſound parts, and the friction is apt to hurt the diſeaſed one. The ointment, however, in this caſe, is not my favourite remedy; at leaſt I never truſt to it alone. I have ſeen great quantities of the ointment uſed for the diſcuſſion of a node with little or no apparent benefit; where pills, made of the calcined mercury, effected a complete cure. In nodes of long ſtanding, more mercury will be neceſſary than in any other ſyphilitic affection.

As

As the true node is never an early ſymptom, there is reaſon to ſuſpect that it is owing either to improper treatment or neglect.---A married gentleman, either to ſave his money or appearances, put himſelf under the care of an apothecary in the environs of London, who, after ſome months' attendance, told him he was cured. Some time after, he came to me, with a large node on one of his legs, for which I put him under a courſe of mercury. He had ſent his wife into the country, to live with her friends, till he ſhould get well; but unfortunately ſhe had carried the infection along with her. Finding herſelf unwell, ſhe applied to a country apothecary, who, being a mere goſſip, blabbed the matter among her friends: they took the alarm, abuſed the huſband, and had very near effected a ſeparation. I adviſed him to bring her up to town, and put her under the ſame courſe of medicine as himſelf. In a few months they were both well, and have ſince had ſeveral fine children.

A man may have a misfortune, or be off his guard at one time or another. When this happens, and he has reaſon to think, or even to ſuſpect, that he has injured his partner, he ought immediately to acquaint her with his ſituation, and to take the ſame advice for her as

as for himſelf; otherwiſe he may have reaſon to repent of his conduct as long as he lives. She will impute all her future complaints to this diſeaſe, and will never believe that ſhe has been thoroughly cured.

When the matter of the venereal diſeaſe falls upon the tendons, muſcles, or ligaments, ſo as to produce tumors, which have a reſemblance to nodes, we muſt depend entirely on mercury for the cure; and, if ulcers ſhould appear, they muſt be treated in the ſame manner as other venereal ulcers.

OF EXCRESCENCES ABOUT THE SEAT.

We have already taken notice of thoſe warty excreſcences which occur in gonorrhœa, and of their proper method of treatment: they are always local, and require only topical applications. But the fleſhy excreſcences, which appear about the ſeat, generally mark a confirmed lues. They ſhew that the whole ſyſtem is contaminated, and will only yield to a complete courſe of mercury.

Sometimes theſe excreſcences appear along with the blotches in other parts of the body: nor do they unfrequently fall into ulcers, which diſcharge a very offenſive matter. Theſe ulcers are not very ſuperficial: they often run to a conſiderable depth, and I have once and again ſeen them degenerate into fiſtulous ſores.

Theſe excreſcences may be cut off with a knife, or eaten away by cauſtic; but, unleſs the cauſe is removed by a mercurial courſe, duly perſiſted in, they will return with as much virulence as before. If once ſubdued by a proper courſe of mercury, they are ſeldom known to appear again on the ſame parts. But it does not follow, when the excreſcences diſappear, that the poiſon is eradicated: the diſeaſe will often break out again with great virulence. When this happens, recourſe muſt again be had to the grand ſpecific. Whatever aid may be derived from other medicines, they are only to be conſidered as auxiliaries. In this way they may have their uſe; but whoever truſts to them for a radical cure, in a confirmed lues, will be miſerably diſappointed.

When the ſurfaces of theſe excreſcences diſcharge matter, ſome employ aſtringent lotions

tions to heal them, leſt the matter ſhould be abſorbed, and diffuſed over the ſyſtem. I am no great friend to repellents in any caſe; they are apt to deceive the patient, and to make him believe he is cured, when the caſe is otherwiſe. But to cleanlineſs I can have no objection. It has already been recommended in the treatment of venereal ulcers; and when theſe excreſcences diſcharge matter, it ſhould be frequently waſhed off with a piece of ſpunge dipped in milk and water, and dry lint applied to abſorb it. When ſinuous ulcers appear, they ſhould be cleaned by injecting the milk and water with a ſyringe.

EFFECTS OF THE VENEREAL DISEASE ON THE EYES AND EARS.

All the organs of ſenſe are liable to be affected by the venereal diſeaſe, but particularly the eyes and ears. Some of the moſt obſtinate inflammations of the eyes that I have met with aroſe from a venereal taint. A repelled gonorrhœa is by ſome ſuppoſed to be the cauſe of this ſpecies of opthalmia. But the

moſt dangerous affection of the eyes is that which proceeds from a confirmed lues. This, though not attended with much pain or inflammation, frequently ends in total blindneſs.

When an inflammation of the eyes ſucceeds to a ſudden ſtoppage of the diſcharge in a gonorrhœa, means ſhould be uſed to reſtore the running. This may be done by ſtimulating injections frequently thrown up the urethra by means of a ſyringe. The manner of preparing and uſing theſe injections, as well as ſtimulating bougies, will be taken notice of in the Appendix.

The treatment of this is nearly the ſame as the common opthalmia. The inflammatory ſymptoms muſt be taken off by bleeding, purging, and other evacuations. If leeches are uſed, they muſt be applied as near to the eyes as can be done with ſafety. The ſame obſervation applies to bliſtering-plaſters. Slips of bliſtering-plaſter may be applied on the temples, or behind the ears, and kept running by converting them into iſſues. I have known ſome people, who are apt to have their eyes inflamed, reap great benefit from wearing threads

of

of worſted, ſmeared with the iſſue ointment, behind the ears.

What is called the chronic opthalmia is often a ſymptom of the pox, and can only be cured by mercury. In this caſe, mercury muſt not only be given in as large quantities as the patient can bear, but muſt be continued for a conſiderable length of time, which muſt be regulated by its effects, as well as the nature of the diſeaſe; for the lues venerea induces different diſorders of the eyes, any of which may end in blindneſs. Sometimes the patient is affected with a gutta ſerena; at other times with a cataract; and not unfrequently, with what is worſe than either, a ſuffuſion of the humours, or an opacity of the cornea. A cataract may be extracted, and ſometimes mercury will cure a gutta ſerena; but when the humours become confuſed, or the cornea loſes its tranſparency, very little is to be done.

Beſides throwing mercury into the ſyſtem in general, ſome local applications are recommended. When the eye-lids are affected, they may be frequently anointed with the mercurial ointment; or, what is more active, with

with an ointment compoſed of three or four parts of hogs-lard to one of the *unguentum citrinum* of the common diſpenſatories. This may be made ſtronger or weaker, as the parts can bear it. Some recommend bathing the eyes, five or ſix times a day, with a weak ſolution of the corroſive ſublimate: this muſt likewiſe be adapted to the patient's feelings.

There is one affection of the eye, which, though truly venereal, is ſometimes miſtaken for a *fiſtula lacrymalis*. It is ſeated in the interior angle of the eye, and is attended with an almoſt conſtant diſcharge of tears, which keep trickling down the cheek. Theſe tears are prevented from finding their way into the noſe through the lacrymal ſac, by the viſcid matter that cloſes up what are called the *puncta lacrymalia*. This matter may be ſqueezed out, by preſſing the part with the finger.

I had a patient ſome time ago, who had long laboured under this complaint: he was attended by a ſurgeon of no great experience, who had not the leaſt ſuſpicion of what was the real cauſe of his patient's diſorder, and propoſed curing him by the operation for the *fiſtula lacrymalis*.

malis. As I took it to be a venereal ſymptom, I adviſed him to try a courſe of mercury, by which the complaint was entirely removed.

The ears, as well as the eyes, are ſometimes the ſeat of the venereal diſeaſe; and, in ſome inſtances, it deſtroys the ſenſe of hearing altogether. When the external parts of the ear only are affected, it is not ſo dangerous; though, in ſome inſtances, the external paſſage is ſo ſtuffed up with a dry, ſcurfy matter, as to obſtruct the hearing. But the greateſt danger ariſes from the venereal diſeaſe fixing on the bones. When this is the caſe, a diſcharge of ill-coloured matter enſues, which is followed by an exfoliation of the bones, and a total loſs of hearing.

It is obſerved, that no ſymptom of the venereal diſeaſe proves more obſtinate than deafneſs. External affections of the ear may be removed by a courſe of mercury; and ſo may deafneſs, occaſioned by an ulceration or ſwelling of the euſtachian tube, where it opens into the throat; but when the diſeaſe has fixed upon the membrane,

brane, or bones of the ear, no advantage is to be expected from mercury, or any other medicine with which we are acquainted. The virus, however, may be totally removed from the conſtitution by the uſe of mercury, though the local ſymptom of deafneſs ſtill remain.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

OF INFANTS, MOTHERS, AND NURSES.

SOME ſpeculative writers have aſſerted that a child cannot bring the venereal diſeaſe into the world with it, unleſs it contracts it in the birth: I am ſorry to ſay, however, that proofs of the contrary are too numerous to admit of a doubt *. A man muſt have had little prac-

* We have frequently had occaſion to mark the reſemblance between the great and ſmall pox, eſpecially with reſpect to the mode in which the infection may be communicated. But we have the moſt unequivocal proofs of pregnant women communicating the ſmall pox to the infant in the womb. Children have not only been born marked with the ſmall pox, but with puſtules on the ſkin;—theſe puſtules have come to maturity; matter has been taken from them for inoculation, which has produced the genuine ſmall pox; and theſe again have produced others, &c. No theory can ſet aſide facts: they are ſtubborn things; and will force their way, in ſpite of the moſt ingenious reaſoning. No argument can be brought againſt a mother's infecting a *fœtus in utero* with the *lues venerea*, that does not apply with equal force againſt her communicating the ſmall pox.

tice, who has not ſeen children born with ſymptoms of the lues venerea, which could not be contracted in the birth. Fortunately, indeed, when an infant comes into the world, with the moſt unequivocal ſymptoms of this diſeaſe on its body, it can be cured. The great ſpecific can be adminiſtered to infants as well as to adults; and, what is very remarkable, the former often bear it better than the latter.

An infant born with the venereal diſeaſe is commonly very delicate. Its fleſh is ſoft, and its joints are feeble. But the moſt certain marks of the diſeaſe appear on the ſkin, which is generally covered with blotches, reſembling thoſe of the venereal kind in adults. Sometimes, indeed, the child appears as if it had been flayed, or had the cuticle taken off with ſcalding water: in this caſe, the fingers and toes ſeem as if the nails had been taken off along with the ſcarf-ſkin.

Occaſionally the diſeaſe does not appear till ſome days after the birth, when the ſymptoms are ſomewhat different from the above; although, in general, there is a reſemblance. The eruptions are at firſt local, but afterwards, if not prevented by mercury, they ſpread ſo as to

to cover a great part of the body; nor are inſtances wanting, where they diſcharge a thin ichor of a very acrimonious nature.

When the diſeaſe does not appear till ſome time after the birth, its firſt ſymptoms are generally perceived about the ſeat and parts adjacent. Theſe are covered with irregular blotches, of a reddiſh caſt, riſing ſomewhat above the ſurface of the ſkin, and covered with moiſture: though, in other parts of the body, the eruption has a cruſty appearance, and often falls off in dry ſcales. On the forehead, eyelids, &c. it generally aſſumes the form of ſcabby excreſcences.

For curing the venereal diſeaſe in infants, ſome recommend giving mercury to the mother or nurſe: as the mother generally has occaſion for medicine as well as the child, there can be no impropriety in this practice; but we would not adviſe any one to truſt to it alone for completing the cure. The infant ought to take mercury at the ſame time with the mother, regard being had to the difference of age and conſtitution. It is worthy of remark, however, that an infant will require more mercury to affect its mouth, in proportion to

its apparent ſtrength, than an adult. Indeed I have always found, in exhibiting mercury for the hydrocephalus, that it was difficult to excite a ſalivation by any quantity that one could venture to give to a child.

The ſkin of an infant is ſo tender, that it can hardly bear friction with the mercurial ointment; otherwiſe this mode of application would be a relief to the ſtomach and bowels. But as the doſe is very ſmall, and the taſte can be diſguiſed by ſugar, there is no difficulty in adminiſtering the mercury internally. The fourth part of a grain of calomel, or of calcined mercury, may be rubbed with a ſmall quantity of ſugar, and given in a little pap three or four times a day.

Some give as much of the common mercurial pill, as contains the fourth of a grain of mercury, four times a day. Others prefer the *mercurius alkaliſatus*, which they adminiſter in the doſe of half a grain. Whichever of theſe is given, it muſt be duly perſiſted in, otherwiſe no benefit is to be expected. After the child has taken mercury four or five weeks, it may be diſcontinued for five or ſix days, but not longer, as the action of the mercury ſhould never be

ſuffered

ſuffered entirely to ceaſe during the whole time of the cure. How long that may be muſt depend on circumſtances; but the medicine ſhould not be diſcontinued when the ſymptoms diſappear, otherwiſe they will return. If the conſtitution will bear it, the mercury may be adminiſtered, with occaſional intermiſſions, for two or three months.

Every perſon poſſeſſed of humanity will agree with me in thinking, that a mother, who brings an infant into the world infected with the venereal diſeaſe, ought to ſuckle it herſelf: it is a cruel thing to communicate this diſeaſe to an innocent nurſe, who, in all probability, will give it to her huſband, by which means the contagion will be tranſmitted to a family, who may never get free from it. Though people in genteel life generally get cured of this malady, it is not the caſe with the lower claſſes of mankind: they can ſeldom obtain good advice; and when they do, they are not in a condition to follow it.

When the mother cannot ſuckle the child, which, I admit, is ſometimes the caſe, it ought to be brought up by the hand. Though I by no means approve of this mode of nurſing, yet the

the life of an infant is, in no caſe, to be put in competition with that of the mother of a family. I ſay *life*; for the caſes are by no means uncommon, where the ſuckling an infected child has proved fatal to the nurſe, and deſtructive to her whole family.

Though I do not know a more iniquitous act, than wilfully to communicate an infectious diſorder to an innocent family; yet I ſuſpect, in ſuch a caſe, that our law gives no redreſs; and, if it did, what compenſation can be made for ruining the conſtitutions of a whole family? Nor does the evil ſtop here: I have known the infection from one child communicated to ſeveral families. Some children have two or three nurſes, and give it to them all; while they, in their turn, give it to others, and ſometimes to their own. So there is no ſaying where the miſchief may end.

Some people think that all the miſchief may be prevented by giving medicine to the nurſe, without letting her know for what it is intended. I never knew this ſucceed. A nurſe will never do juſtice to medicine, if ſhe thinks ſhe ails nothing, and does not know for what purpoſe it is given; and if ſhe is told, it is

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ten to one if ſhe continues to ſuckle the child any longer. Indeed, it is more than probable, that, by fretting and vexation, ſhe will loſe her milk, or turn it into a poiſon; ſo that the poor infant, inſtead of one enemy, has two to combat.

On theſe and other conſiderations, I would adviſe, where there are ſigns of infection, and the mother cannot give ſuck, that the infant ſhould always be brought up by the hand. Some recommend this method of nurſing till the child is cured, and then to give it the breaſt; but to this plan there are ſeveral objections. Few children will ſuck after they have been two or three months without the breaſt; beſides, it is almoſt impoſſible to aſcertain the time when the infant is completely cured. Many nurſes have been infected by giving the breaſt to children after the doctor had announced them clean.

But in theſe matters guilt does not attach to parents alone; nurſes are often to blame: nor can parents be too careful in inveſtigating the characters of thoſe women whom they employ to ſuckle their offspring. An innocent woman may communicate the infection by not knowing ſhe is injured; but when a woman, who has reaſon to ſuſpect that ſhe has received

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the infection, conceals it, and undertakes to ſuckle a ſound child, I hardly know any puniſhment too ſevere for her. This, however, to my knowledge, is no uncommon practice.

Married people, or people about to be married, cannot be too cautious in their conduct reſpecting this diſorder. What a dreadful inheritance is the lues venerea to tranſmit to poſterity! yet many men are wonderfully inattentive to this matter. I have often been applied to for a quick cure, as the party was going to be married. In this I always refuſed to be concerned; knowing that the patient would either take the medicine too quickly, or leave it off too ſoon; both of which might have ſerious conſequences. But there are abundance of undertakers for this diſeaſe in London, who will make no ſcruple of promiſing a complete cure in three days.

No doubt, an apparent cure may be performed in three days; but woe be to him who truſts to it. It is an eaſy matter to dry up a ſore; but if the poiſon has been taken into the ſyſtem, it is only fixing the diſorder. It would be difficult to aſcertain the extent of the miſchief done by pretenders to quick cures: indeed, when the ſyſtem is infected, the thing is impoſſible. Nor is it eaſy to ſettle the preciſe time at which

which the poiſon has, or has not, entered the ſyſtem.

As the pox generally proceeds from a local affection, ſome truſt for a cure to burning out the part with cauſtic. It may ſometimes ſucceed, but the riſk is too great. Should the poiſon have entered the ſyſtem, this painful operation will be of no uſe; the infection will ſhew itſelf in one ſhape or another, and the cure will be more difficult than if it had been taken in time. Even in pregnant women the antidote is not to be neglected; otherwiſe the mother and child will both be ſufferers.

When it is neceſſary to give mercury to pregnant women, it ought always to be done with caution; ſhould it run off by the bowels, there will be danger of an abortion. I have known one draſtic purge cauſe an abortion, and coſt the woman her life; indeed, when an abortion is occaſioned by violent means of any kind, the mother's life is in danger. Mercury ought, therefore, always to be adminiſtered to pregnant women in form of ointment. This mode of application will generally cure the diſeaſe, without endangering the life of the mother or fœtus.

One common conſequence of venereal infection lurking in the habit, is abortion. This ſhould make breeding women very careful to avoid the contagion; and when they have the misfortune to catch it, no means ſhould be left uneſſayed to get thoroughly cured. By frequent abortions, women not only loſe their progeny, but ruin their health. A woman is more hurt by one abortion, than by bringing ſeveral children to the full time: beſides, every abortion paves the way to another, till at length the conſtitution is ruined. I hardly recollect one inſtance of a woman who had had this misfortune often, that was not broken down by ſome particular diſeaſe, or laboured under a train of nervous affections, which were more than ſufficient to render life completely miſerable.

Abortions from this cauſe generally happen about the ſixth or ſeventh month; and we have reaſon to believe they are more numerous than is commonly imagined. Mr. Bell, of Edinburgh, conſiders the lues as a frequent cauſe of abortion; and adds, that a well-conducted courſe of mercury will ſeldom fail to prevent it. The mode of adminiſtering mercury

cury to pregnant women has already been pointed out. The courſe, however, muſt be continued for a conſiderable length of time; otherwiſe the ſucceſs will be doubtful. In this diſeaſe nothing is done, while any thing is left undone.

CHAP. VII.

OF SOME IRREGULAR SYMPTOMS.

THOUGH few diſeaſes are better underſtood, or have had their ſymptoms more accurately deſcribed, than the lues venerea; yet it ſometimes appears in ſuch a queſtionable ſhape, that the moſt experienced practitioner may miſtake it for ſome other malady. This indeed ſeldom happens, unleſs where the diſeaſe has lodged long in the conſtitution, or has aſſumed a character different from its real one.

It is of great importance to know when a diſeaſe proceeds from a latent venereal taint; as, in ſuch caſe, no medicine except mercury can be depended on for a cure. One often ſees ſymptoms where mercury would ſeem to be highly improper, yet they will not yield to any other medicine. When the real cauſe of theſe

theſe ſymptoms is not ſuſpected, the patient is ſuffered to linger out a miſerable exiſtence till he dies.

In dubiis suspice luem---in doubtful caſes ſuſpect a pox---was a maxim with the great Dr. Boerhaave, and ought to be ſo with every practitioner in phyſic, eſpecially in a great town. When ſymptoms appear, for which an obvious cauſe cannot be aſſigned, the phyſician ought to make the ſtricteſt inquiry concerning the patient's character and manner of life; particularly, if at any time he has had the venereal diſeaſe? what were its ſymptoms, and how were they treated, &c.? If he has reaſon to ſuſpect a lurking lues, the ſpecific muſt be adminiſtered in ſuch manner as is beſt ſuited to the patient's conſtitution.

When doubtful ſymptoms appear, it will ſometimes be difficult to ſay whether they proceed from the remedy, or the diſeaſe. The only way in which this can be aſcertained, is to try if the ſymptoms will yield to mercury. If they grow worſe under the uſe of this medicine, it ought to be diſcontinued; but when a cough, hectic fever, or other dangerous ſymptoms, ſeem, in any meaſure, to give way

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to mercury, it ought certainly to be continued till they diſappear.

Affections of the ſkin, which paſs for ſcorbutic, are not unfrequently of the venereal kind; as the dry ſcurfy chaps on the feet and palms of the hands, the thickening of the ſkin in ſeveral parts of the body, &c. All theſe require the uſe of mercury both externally and internally. The beſt external application is the unguentum citrinum, or yellow ointment, which muſt be reduced by hog's-lard, as directed in the Appendix. I know no better medicine for internal uſe, than pills made of calcined mercury.

Sores, which aſſume a cancerous appearance, are ſometimes occaſioned by the venereal poiſon lurking in the habit; and ſome are of opinion that it will produce the real cancer. Be this as it may, theſe ſores require the uſe of mercury; nor will ſores of a venereal kind yield to any other medicine. Sometimes, indeed, external applications are neceſſary; nor can the ſores be healed without the uſe of cauſtics and eſcharotics of the moſt active kind.

Pains, which reſemble the rheumatic, are often occaſioned by a venereal taint lurking in the

the habit; and ſome think thoſe ſharp, flying pains, which affect the jaws, neck, and parts adjacent, ariſe from the ſame cauſe. When theſe pains are excruciating, it will be neceſſary to adminiſter opiates along with mercury for their relief. Some, in this caſe, recommend Dover's powder, which is far from being an improper medicine. It acts both as an anodyne and ſudorific.

It has been alleged, that fevers of the intermittent kind have ſometimes been induced by the venereal poiſon lurking in the habit. I can only ſay, that theſe have not occurred in my practice; nor do I think it follows, that a fever was excited by the venereal poiſon, becauſe it is cured by mercury. If, however, there is ground to ſuſpect that the intermittent fever proceeds from this cauſe, the antidote ought certainly to be adminiſtered.

Whether intermittents occur or not, there is no doubt that fever is often excited by the venereal poiſon. The fever which occurs in the early periods of the diſeaſe is ſymptomatic, and generally goes off with the buboes, and other ſymptoms, that gave riſe to it. But the fever which comes on in the advanced periods, without

without any apparent cauſe, yet owes its exiſtence to the venereal infection, is of an obſtinate nature, and ſometimes will not yield to any medicine.

This fever is generally accompanied with a quick pulſe, loſs of appetite, decay of ſtrength, waſting of the fleſh, colliquative ſweats, and other ſymptoms of a conſumption: nor are anxiety, reſtleſſneſs, and extreme irritability, uncommon ſymptoms. Even here, where there is reaſon to ſuſpect that the fever ariſes from the venereal contagion, the ſpecific muſt be adminiſtered. It ſhould, however, be given with the greateſt caution, and diſcontinued if the ſymptoms grow worſe, or the patient is unable to bear it.

What is called the alterative courſe muſt here be ſtrictly obſerved, beginning with the very ſmalleſt doſes, as half a grain, and enlarging them by degrees. If the fever abates by the uſe of mercury, and the ſweats, &c. grow better, it ought of courſe to be continued. It may be aſſiſted either by the Liſbon diet-drink, or the ſarſaparilla in powder, a tea-ſpoonful of which may be taken in a little of the patient's drink five or ſix times a day.

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The patient's diet in this caſe muſt be light, but rather of a nouriſhing nature. Some recommend a milk diet; but, when the powers of digeſtion are weak, milk ſeldom agrees with the ſtomach. To aſſes' milk, however, I have no objection. This ſeldom diſagrees even with the weakeſt ſtomach, and has the double advantage of ſerving both for food and medicine. It may be taken from a gill evening and morning, to a pint, or a pint and a half in the day.

When the venereal diſeaſe has ſo far changed its nature, as to reſiſt the powers of mercury in every ſhape in which it can be adminiſtered, I would adviſe the patient to diſcontinue its uſe for ſome time, to go into the country, take gentle exerciſe in the open air, and change his low diet for one that is generous and invigorating. This may be aſſiſted by taking, three or four times a day, a teaſpoonful of Huxham's tincture of the bark in a glaſs of generous wine.

When the patient has ſufficiently recovered his ſtrength and ſpirits, if there is any reaſon to ſuſpect that the poiſon ſtill lurks in the conſtitution, recourſe muſt be had to mercury

for its expulſion. But as this is a very difficult queſtion to reſolve, I would adviſe the patient, in this, and every doubtful caſe, to take the opinion of an able and experienced practitioner.

OF DISEASES WHICH RESEMBLE THE LUES VENEREA.

It is of great importance to be able to diſtinguiſh the venereal diſeaſe from others which bear a reſemblance to it. Where due attention is not paid to this, great errors may be committed in practice. The medicines neceſſary for the cure of lues venerea will often do miſchief when adminiſtered in caſes which, though they may reſemble the venereal, yet do not belong to that claſs.

Nor is the danger leſs, when, in caſes truly venereal, the ſpecific is omitted. I have often occaſion to ſee patients, who had been told that their diſeaſe was not venereal, and had been neglected or tampered with, till their ſituation was truly deplorable. It is certainly true, that many who pretend to cure this diſeaſe,

eaſe, do not know all the forms under which it appears in different patients. Theſe indeed are various, and will ſometimes deceive even the moſt experienced practitioner.

A diſeaſe can only be known from its ſymptoms, and even theſe will ſometimes miſlead an inattentive obſerver. It is the aggregate of ſymptoms which conſtitutes the diſeaſe, and not any ſingle one. There is hardly one ſymptom of the venereal diſeaſe, which may not exiſt where the infection had never been received; but where all the leading ſymptoms are found, and the circumſtances of the caſe concur to prove it is venereal, we may almoſt arrive at a certainty.

There are certain modifications, however, of the venereal diſeaſe, which, though they differ in ſome ſymptoms, are ſo ſimilar in their effects on the ſyſtem, that they require nearly the ſame method of treatment. Theſe, in different countries, are known by different names; as the Yaws in the Weſt Indies, Mal Anglois in Canada, and in North Britain, Sivvens or Sibbens. As this diſorder has never come under my inſpection, in any ſhape, I ſhall here inſert Mr. Bell's account of it, who ſays he

has had many opportunities of ſeeing it; and I believe him to be a man of candour and obſervation.

" He ſays it never appears in the form of a gonorrhœa, and ſeldom at firſt in any form on the genitals, owing to the manner in which it is moſt frequently communicated. The infection being for the moſt part received by eating or drinking out of the ſame utenſils with thoſe labouring under the diſeaſe, it often appears at firſt in the throat, or ſome part of the mouth. In the mouth the ſores have the uſual appearances of venereal ulcers. This is likewiſe the caſe in the throat when the diſeaſe has been of ſome duration; but at firſt, and often for the ſpace of ſeveral weeks, although the patient complains of a good deal of uneaſineſs in ſwallowing, and a conſtant hoarſeneſs, there is nothing perceived upon inſpection but a degree of tenderneſs, accompanied with an eryſipelatous redneſs of the emygdalæ, uvula, and velum pendulum palati. If not prevented, however, by the uſe of mercury, ulcers at laſt form upon theſe parts, and commonly ſpread more quickly than venereal ulcers uſually do in other parts of the body; inſomuch.

inſomuch, that the uvula and amygdalæ will ſometimes be entirely deſtroyed in the courſe of a few days, and a degree of hoarſeneſs and loſs of voice produced, from which the patient never afterwards recovers.

" It is particularly apt to affect the internal parts of the noſe; and when the ſores penetrate to the oſſa ſpongioſa, theſe ſoon become carious, and come away in ſmall pieces along with the matter, which is always exceedingly fœtid. When not prevented by mercury, the ulcers ſpread to the hard bones of the noſe, and from theſe to the bones of the cheeks. In this manner the whole cheek becomes ulcerated; for when theſe bones are affected, the contiguous ſoft parts likewiſe become ſoon diſeaſed. It is not uncommon for theſe ulcers to attack the eyelids.

" When the infection is not received by the mouth, the diſeaſe appears in a variety of forms in different parts of the ſurface of the body. When the virus has entered the ſyſtem, the parts upon which it firſt commonly breaks out are the genitals, the parts contiguous to the anus, the anterior parts of the thighs and legs, the under part of the abdomen,

men, the breaſt, arms, fingers, and toes, and hairy ſcalp. It does not ſo readily fix upon the fleſhy parts of the legs or thighs, or on the back. In ſome, the parts become covered with an infinite number of ſmall puſtules; and, as they are itchy, the diſeaſe is at firſt often miſtaken for the itch. This happens the more readily, from its prevailing almoſt entirely among the common people; who, from want of cleanlineſs, frequently labour under itch; and ſo much is ſibbens confined to this ſet of people, that, excepting children, who are more particularly expoſed to receive infection from ſervants, thoſe in the higher ranks of life are ſcarcely ever attacked with it; at leaſt, few inſtances of their being ſo have fallen within my obſervation.

" This eruption, however, ſoon aſſumes appearances which ſufficiently diſtinguiſh it from itch; the ſkin, upon which it is ſeated, becomes thickened, and ſomewhat elevated, and acquires the characteriſtic marks of blotches, a peculiar copper-coloured appearance.

" The late Dr. Gilchriſt, of Dumfries, in a paper upon this ſubject in the Phyſical and Literary Eſſays of Edinburgh, remarks, ' that ' theſe

'these scabby eruptions are often met with on 'the scalp, forehead, inside of the thighs, groins, 'and parts contiguous. Inflammation and 'excrescences about the fundament are fre-'quent; and it sometimes appears in the form 'of a herpes exedens, healing in one part, and 'breaking out in another.'

"Some have small tubercles, or hard elevated knots upon the face, arms, and breast, somewhat resembling small pox at the height, but of a red or copper colour, and accompanied with a painful degree of heat. If mercury is given early, these tumors gradually subside, otherwise they become large, and discharge a fœtid, viscid matter, which forms into crusts or flakes; and, on their falling off, the parts beneath are red, tender, and, in some cases, in a state of ulceration.

"Instead of this more numerous eruption, some are attacked with small inflammatory boils, which do not readily suppurate, but remain for a considerable time hard, and of a copper colour, and at last discharge a thin bloody ichor. These at first resemble the common anthrax, or carbuncle, but soon after, bursting, they assume all the appearances of the true venereal ulcer.

"But

" But the moſt characteriſtic ſymptom of this variety of ſyphilis, is a ſoft ſpongy excreſcence, in ſize and colour reſembling a common raſp, which is apt to appear on all ſuch parts as either become ulcerated, or that are attacked with any kind of eruption; ſivven or ſibben being in many parts of the Highlands the name of a wild raſp; and this being a very frequent ſymptom of the diſeaſe, is the cauſe of its being diſtinguiſhed by this appellation. In ſome inſtances this ſpongy ſubſtance riſes to a conſiderable height; nor can it be kept down by any of the common eſcharotics; for, although entirely removed, if the virus of the diſeaſe be not eradicated by the uſe of a full courſe of mercury, it ſoon returns to a greater extent than before; but as mercury is commonly given as ſoon as this ſymptom becomes evidently marked, the excreſcence is ſeldom ſo much elevated as it otherwiſe would be.

" Theſe fungous productions are occaſionally met with in every part of the body; but they are particularly apt to form on ſuch parts as have become tender, whether from previous eruption, or from the cuticle having ſeparated and come off from the ſkin beneath; a circumſtance which ſometimes takes place in this diſ-

caſe

eaſe, and when to any conſiderable extent, always with much inconvenience and diſtreſs.

" In the treatiſe which I have mentioned, Dr. Gilchriſt obſerves, that this diſeaſe does not attack the large and ſolid bones, and very rarely any of the others. I have, however, ſeen ſeveral inſtances of the contrary, in which both the bones of the legs and arms have been affected; and it is by no means uncommon to find this diſeaſe fix upon the bones of the head. I have ſeen it indeed in every part of the body, and in every form under which lues venerea uſually appears, except in chancres on the genitals. I have ſeen it produce ſores reſembling chancres on the lips, and on the nipples of nurſes; and where an infection has been of long duration, I have known ulcers form upon the penis; but I have not known an inſtance of its producing chancres either in men or women from coition; owing, I imagine, to all who are attacked with ulcers upon theſe parts, from this cauſe, avoiding venereal intercourſes, which they very univerſally do, till a cure is obtained by a courſe of mercury. But although ſibbens is not uſually met with in the form of chancres upon the penis, this,

as well as other parts of the genitals, are particularly apt to be attacked with ſuch ulcers as appear from the virus having entered the conſtitution. In different inſtances I have known the whole penis and ſcrotum deſtroyed with it; but this has commonly happened from the patient having neglected too long to call for medical aſſiſtance, or from mercury being given in too ſmall quantities.

"Theſe ulcers, like the uſual form of venereal ulcers, proceeding from the conſtitutional form of the diſeaſe, do not commonly produce buboes. This, however, is not univerſal; for buboes ſometimes take place in ſibbens, not only from the primary ulcers of the diſeaſe, as I have in more than one inſtance perceived in the arm-pit, from ſores produced upon the nipple in nurſing an infected child, but alſo from thoſe which appear upon the penis and other parts of the genitals, from the virus having entered the ſyſtem; and the appearance of buboes produced by ſibbens, whether in their ſwelled or ulcerated ſtates, is in every reſpect the ſame with that of the ordinary form of venereal bubo.

"Syphilis,

" Syphilis, in whatever way the infection is communicated, is readily tranſmitted, as I have already had occaſion to ſee, from parents to the fœtus in utero, and this is particularly apt to happen in ſibbens. Sibbens, therefore, proves a frequent cauſe of abortions, although, in ſome inſtances, children are born with it at the full time, and in a few it breaks out in the courſe of the firſt month after delivery.

" In the treatment of ſibbens, as of every variety of lues venerea, mercury is the only remedy upon which we can place dependence. Sarſaparilla, guaiacum, and mezereon have occaſionally proved uſeful; but we truſt to mercury alone for a radical cure. The obſervations we have already had occaſion to offer on the employment of mercury, apply with equal propriety to the treatment of every ſymptom of ſibbens. It is therefore unneceſſary to conſider the ſubject farther at preſent; but, while we refer for this purpoſe to different parts of the preceding pages, I think it right to obſerve, that a greater quantity of mercury is, in moſt inſtances, required for the cure of ſibbens, than we uſually find to be neceſſary in the ordinary form of the diſeaſe.

Relief is obtained with, perhaps, equal eaſe, and a ſtop may be put to the farther progreſs of the diſeaſe, by the ſame quantity that we employ for the common ſymptoms of pox; but it is more apt to return if the medicine be not given in larger quantities, and continued for a conſiderable time after every appearance of infection is removed. When the diſeaſe has been of long duration, mercury ought to be continued for ſeven or eight weeks after every ſymptom has diſappeared.

"A practitioner of experience and obſervation, and who had many opportunities of ſeeing every ſymptom of ſibbens, informed me, that mercurius ſublimatus corroſivus frequently proves ſucceſsful in the cure of the more inveterate ſymptoms of the diſeaſe, when the milder preparations of mercury fail. He gave it in the form of drops: ſixteen grains were diſſolved in an ounce of water, with the addition of eight grains of crude ſal ammoniac; and of this ten drops were given three or four times a day.

"When ulcers in the throat and other parts do not yield to the uſe of mercury, we have recourſe to cauſtics and eſcharotics, and they prove

prove equally uſeful here, as in every variety of ſore proceeding from lues venerea. In various inſtances they have been rendered clean, and brought into a healing condition, by fumigating with cinnabar, when they had previouſly reſiſted every other remedy.

" The public, however, are equally intereſted in the prevention of this diſeaſe as in the cure of it, particularly in thoſe diſtricts where it has long prevailed; and with proper attention there is much reaſon to ſuppoſe that it might ſoon be eradicated. In ſome parts of Scotland this has already indeed been accompliſhed; and the means by which it has been done are ſimple, and eaſily practiſed. They conſiſt entirely in a due attention to cleanlineſs, and in preventing nurſes and other ſervants from being employed, where there is the leaſt reaſon to imagine that they are infected. In the choice of a nurſe, this is a point of the utmoſt importance; for in ſibbens, as in every form of ſyphilis, I have had many proofs of the diſeaſe being communicated by the milk alone; and as this is almoſt the only way by which it has found acceſs to families of rank, they are particularly intereſted in preventing it.

" The

" The chief difficulty which occurs to the prevention of this diſeaſe, proceeds from thoſe who ought moſt anxiouſly to wiſh for it. The infected are ſo much afraid of a diſcovery being to injure their reputation, that they do all in their power to conceal it; by which they are often prevented from taking mercury in that complete manner by which alone a cure can be accompliſhed. I know, however, that this anxiety for concealment may be removed; and, with proper attention, that thoſe poor people, who otherwiſe would fall victims to the baneful effects of the diſeaſe, may be eaſily induced to apply for medical aſſiſtance. The clergy have this ſo much in their power, that through their interference the ſibbens might ſoon be eradicated. In one pariſh this was actually done. The diſeaſe had ſpread to ſuch an alarming height, that above three-fourths of the inhabitants were infected, and many of the more delicate, particularly young children and females, died under it. This had gone on for many years, when, by the exertions of the clergyman of the pariſh, it was entirely removed in the courſe of a ſhort time. He went perſonally to every individual of his pariſh,

riſh, and convinced them of the propriety of applying for medical aſſiſtance immediately on the diſeaſe breaking out, which they agreed to the more readily, from their being ſenſible that all of them had got the diſeaſe in the moſt innocent manner. In this way it was ſoon carried off; and by due attention to cleanlineſs, and avoiding all kind of intercourſe with thoſe whom they ſuſpected to labour under it, the diſeaſe has now for a conſiderable time been entirely ſubdued. This has in ſome degree, indeed, been the caſe in every diſtrict of Scotland where ſibbens ever prevailed. In ſome ſituations it has been nearly eradicated, and in none is it now ſo frequent as it was ſome years ago. There is much cauſe therefore to hope, that, by the ſuperior attention to cleanlineſs, which of late years has prevailed among our common people, it will ſoon become every-where unknown.

"If the diſeaſe, as it prevails in Canada, is the ſame with the ſibbens in Scotland; and from all that I have heard of it, there is no cauſe to doubt of its being ſo; the ſame method of cure will prove effectual, and the ſame means of prevention muſt be obſerved."

I have

I have inſerted this article at full length, becauſe it throws conſiderable light on the nature of the venereal poiſon, and the means of preventing its progreſs. Another reaſon is, that the ſibbens prevails chiefly among a claſs of people, who, from their circumſtances and ſituation, are either deprived of all regular medical advice, or are obliged to put up with that of the very worſt kind.

Mr. Bell ſeems to think, that this ſpecies of the venereal diſeaſe might be eradicated by due attention to cleanlineſs. I am entirely of his opinion; but do not ſee why the advantages of ſuperior cleanlineſs ſhould be confined to one ſpecies of the venereal diſeaſe. I have already recommended it as the beſt preventive in every ſhape under which that diſorder appears, and think a due regard to it would go a great length towards extirpating the contagion altogether.

The ſame author obſerves, that the clergy might be of great uſe in eradicating this malady, in which I cordially agree with him; but do not ſee why their uſefulneſs ſhould be confined to the extirpation of one diſorder. It conſiſts with my knowledge, that the itch,

and

and other diſeaſes ariſing from neglect of cleanlineſs, may be extirpated in any pariſh by the exertions of the clergyman. Of this I have ſeen inſtances, and therefore know it to be practicable.

But there is another diſeaſe which proves more fatal to mankind than the lues venerea, that it is in the power of the clergy almoſt wholly to diſarm of its ſting---I mean the ſmall-pox. The clergy alone have it in their power to render inoculation univerſal, which would ſave the lives of millions of innocent babes, who annually periſh in Europe by the ravages of that baneful malady. Some of the clergy, to their immortal honour, have effected this in their own pariſhes; and it is to be hoped that many others will follow ſo *noble* an example. Though I think a clergyman cannot be better employed than in preſerving the health and lives of thoſe under his care; yet I do not mean to overload him ſo much as to recommend the drudgery of attending the ſick: this might be both diſagreeable and dangerous; but the paſtor of a pariſh has, generally ſpeaking, great

influence over his flock, and may almoſt induce them to do what he pleaſes, merely by giving them good and wholeſome advice.

It is obſerved, that the ſibbens prevails chiefly among the lower claſs of people; but theſe people can ſeldom afford to have any good advice; for this reaſon the clergyman, who is always a man of reading and knowledge, ought to give them ſuch inſtructions as will enable them to be their own phyſicians. The moſt ignorant peaſant of that country where the ſibbens prevails, knows how to cure the itch; but I will venture to ſay, that the one is as eaſily cured as the other. People are alarmed at the name of mercury, and think it requires to be adminiſtered with the greateſt ſkill and attention. No doubt, miſchief is done by adminiſtering mercury at random; but with common care and prudence, this will not be the caſe.

People of more zeal than knowledge are apt to thing that thoſe who ſuffer by the venereal diſeaſe deſerve no commiſeration, and ought not to be pitied nor relieved. Though this is an illiberal idea, yet it may have ſome foundation

foundation where guilt is connected with puniſhment. But this can never apply to patients afflicted with ſibbens. Their complaints do not proceed from any illicit commerce, but are generally the effect of that intercourſe in families, which muſt ſubſiſt among children, ſervants, and nurſes, and which renders the choice of both the latter an object of conſiderable importance.

Some doubt if the ſibbens is the ſame diſeaſe as the lues venerea, as they do not, in all their ſymptoms, exactly agree; be this as it may, their effects on the ſyſtem are ſo ſimilar, that we may venture to recommend the ſame mode of treatment, and have reaſon to believe it will ſeldom fail to accompliſh a cure.

The different forms that this diſeaſe aſſumes, give reaſon to ſuſpect that the poiſon has exiſted much longer among mankind than is generally imagined. At its firſt appearance in Europe, it bore a greater reſemblance to the ſibbens than to the lues as it now ſhews itſelf. If we can believe the firſt writers on the ſubject, this was the caſe. If it has

changed once, it may change again; and, as the inhabitants of Europe live in a much more elegant manner, and are more attentive to cleanlineſs, than at the time this diſorder firſt appeared, we have reaſon to hope that it will become milder. The change of living has almoſt baniſhed the leproſy; and why may it not have the ſame effect on the lues? Theſe two diſeaſes do not differ ſo eſſentially from one another as ſome may imagine. The uſe of mercury in curing the leproſy led to its application in the lues venerea.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

SOME SINGULAR EFFECTS OF MERCURY ON THE MOUTH, BOWELS, &c.

THE effects of mercury vary ſo much in different patients, ariſing either from a peculiarity of conſtitution, or ſome morbid affection of the ſyſtem, that, previous to the adminiſtration of this medicine, particular inquiry ought always to be made concerning the patient's habit of body, manner of life, &c.; otherwiſe ſome very unpleaſant circumſtances may occur in the progreſs of the cure.

A quantity of mercury that will not have the leaſt effect on one patient, will throw another into a violent ſalivation, and even endanger his life. There is no rule by which we can judge, before-hand, of the effects that mercury will produce on any individual. The ſafeſt method, therefore, as has already been obſerved,

obſerved, is to begin with ſmall doſes, and to increaſe them gradually as circumſtances may ſuggeſt. A phyſician, in many caſes, muſt feel his way; and this is not more neceſſary on any occaſion than in the exhibition of mercury.

It has been obſerved, that thoſe who have their mouths ſooneſt affected with the mercury are eaſieſt cured. This is certainly true; but it is alſo true that ſome will receive a complete cure, where little or no ſalivation is excited. To effect this purpoſe, however, the ſyſtem muſt be fully impregnated with the mercury; and its uſe ſhould be continued for ſome weeks after all the ſymptoms diſappear. This ought to be an invariable rule *.

Though

* An attention to this rule cannot be inculcated too often. I am at this moment called upon by a young gentleman, who, in a few days, intended to ſail for the West Indies. About four months ago he applied to a ſurgeon, of ſome celebrity in this line of practice for the cure of a common chancre, who advised him to wash it frequently with Goulard's extract, and rub in the mercurial ointment. In three weeks the ſymptoms diſappeared, and he was conſidered as cured. He had occaſion to go a pretty long journey into the country; but before he reached the end of it, he was ſeizedwith a ſore throat, and blotches appeared in ſeveral parts of his body. A practitioner of phyſic, in the town to which he went, advised him to go through a courſe of mercury. To this he agreed, and, during its uſe, the ſymptoms again diſappeared.

But,

Though the lues venerea proves moſt obſtinate in perſons of a ſcrofulous habit; yet the adminiſtration of mercury is more difficult where the patient is affected with a deep ſcurvy. I have met with ſeveral caſes where it was almoſt impoſſible to cure the diſeaſe without endangering the patient's life by an exceſſive ſalivation. I would therefore adviſe thoſe who have been long at ſea, and on their return have had the misfortune to contract this malady, to be extremely cautious how they uſe mercury; otherwiſe they may have cauſe to repent of their raſhneſs.

I ſaw a remarkable inſtance of this ſome years ago, in a young man who belonged to the navy, but was at that time on his way to his friends in the country, having been diſmiſſed from an hoſpital as incurable. When I ſaw him he was almoſt in the agonies of death.

But, on his return to London, the blotches appeared again, and he complained of his throat being sore. Though, first and last, he has taken medicine for about seven weeks, yet it is evident he is not cured, and I have advised him to go through a fresh course of mercury, accompanied with the decoction of sarsaparilla. This gentleman is convinced, if he had gone to sea after he was dismissed by his first attendant as cured, that he would have lost his life; and I am convinced if he had married, which was likely to have happened, that he would have injured his wife, and had a rotten progeny, if any.—Such are the blessings of *hasty cures!*

His

His countenance was pale as aſhes, his pulſe feeble, and his voice faultering. But the moſt remarkable ſymptom was a continual dripping of blood from every outlet of the body. Though I ſay blood, it hardly deſerved that name, for it was ſo thin as juſt to be perceivable upon a white cloth. I did not learn how long this diſcharge had continued; but it had reduced him from a remarkably fine young man, by all accounts, to a mere ſkeleton. I tried to throw in aſtringents and cordials, but in vain. The powers of life were too far exhauſted for medicine to take any effect.

All I could learn of this young man was, that he had been long at ſea; that on his return to England he had the misfortune to be injured, and had been ſent to an hoſpital. I neither know how he was treated, nor how long he had been ill; but from ſeveral caſes which have ſince fallen under my obſervation, I am convinced that he owed his premature death to the improper uſe of mercury. Of this the following caſe will leave little room to doubt:

A young ſailor, who had made four voyages, in ſucceſſion, to the Eaſt Indies, and who was too complete a tar to pay any attention to his health, was, ſoon after his arrival from the fourth voyage, ſo unlucky as to get injured.

He

He concealed his ſituation from his uncle, who was his guardian, till he was completely poxed. I was then conſulted, and found it neceſſary to put him immediately under a courſe of mercury; but, not being aware of the ſtate of his body, I had well nigh loſt my patient. Before he had taken half the quantity of mercury neceſſary to cure his diſorder, he was ſeized with ſuch a violent diſcharge of ſaliva, mixed with blood, as required all my ſkill and exertions to check. It ran in a continued ſtream from his mouth, ſo as to fill ſeveral waſh-hand baſins in the courſe of a day.

By the application of opiates and aſtringent medicines this diſcharge was got the better of, but not before the patient's life was in imminent danger; and I am convinced, if it had happened at ſea, or in any ſituation where he could not have had proper nurſing, and every kind of medical aſſiſtance, he muſt have loſt his life. He was indeed an irregular patient, and could not be induced to keep himſelf warm, even when the ſalivation was at the higheſt; but I imputed the exceſſive diſcharge chiefly to the effect of mercury on a habit deeply tainted with the ſea ſcurvy.

When, from the patient's manner of life, or other circumſtances, there is reaſon to ſuſpect a lurking ſcurvy, every method ſhould be taken to remove it previouſly to his entering on a courſe of mercury. This may be effected by a vegetable diet, and the uſe of antiſcorbutic medicines duly perſiſted in. It will, however, be neceſſary in ſuch caſes to adminiſter thoſe preparations of mercury which are leaſt apt to affect the mouth, and to give them in very ſmall doſes.

Some with this view recommend the Plummer's Pill, which, being a combination of mercury and ſulphur, is rendered very mild in its operation. But I prefer the corroſive ſublimate in ſmall quantities, which, while it is leſs apt to run off by the ſalivary glands than the others, is one of the moſt active preparations of mercury, and ſeldom fails to remove the lues when properly adminiſtered.

When mercury runs too much to the mouth, it is common to have recourſe to purgatives; but theſe will ſeldom be found to anſwer the expectations of the practitioner. They weaken the patient, already too much exhauſted, and ſeldom put a ſtop to the diſcharge.

charge. I would therefore, in preference to theſe, recommend opiates and aſtringent medicines, to be applied to the parts affected in form of waſhes, gargles, &c. Some for this purpoſe recommend nitre, to be given in as large doſes as the ſtomach will bear.

Though opium may be employed as a gargle, it will be of more ſervice taken inwardly. A ſufficient doſe of this ſoothing cordial ſeldom fails to take off the irritation and pain, ſo diſtreſſing in a profuſe ſalivation, and to procure reſt, ſo much wiſhed for by the patient. A pill, containing from half a grain to a grain of opium, may be given evening and morning, or oftener, if the pain and reſtleſſneſs make it neceſſary.

Waſhes may be made of an infuſion of red roſe leaves, tormentil root, willow bark, Peruvian bark, oak bark, galls, or any other aſtringent vegetable. But what I generally employ is powdered borax rubbed up with honey, and held in the mouth; or it may be made into a waſh by diſſolving it in boiling water, and afterwards adding the honey. An ounce of borax and two ounces of honey to a pint of water is the uſual proportion.

It has been common to adminiſter ſulphur to check a ſalivation; but this idea has originated in theory more than from practice. Though ſulphur, combined with mercury, leſſens its activity, it does not follow that it will have the ſame effect when taken into the ſyſtem. I am inclined to think, if it has any effect at all, it is owing to its purgative quality, and not to its action upon the mercury.

A variety of medicines, combined with mercury, have been recommended to prevent its affecting the mouth; but as theſe only tend to leſſen its activity, the ſame purpoſe may be anſwered by diminiſhing the doſe. Where due attention is paid to this, and the patient is kept ſufficiently warm, there will ſeldom be reaſon to fear his being thrown into an exceſſive ſalivation, unleſs his conſtitution is peculiarly irritable, has been broken down by repeated ſalivations, or is deeply affected with the ſcurvy.

When the ſaliva is mixed with blood, as in the caſe related above, and the diſcharge is very copious, the patient's ſtrength muſt be ſupported with red wine and light nouriſhing diet;

diet; and he may take frequently from ten to twenty drops of the oil of turpentine in a glaſs of cold water. In diſcharges of blood from any part of the body I have found this to be an excellent medicine.

Mercury ſometimes occaſions a diſcharge of blood from the bowels, as well as from the mouth. This ſymptom is not without danger, and ought, as ſoon as poſſible, to be removed. The patient's diet ought chiefly to conſiſt of mild farinaceous ſubſtances, as flour boiled in milk, rice boiled or baked, animal jellies, and ſuch-like. Opium may be given as recommended above, with the addition of from five to ten grains of gum kino to every grain of the opium. If the kino is not at hand, a tea-ſpoonful of the tincture of Catechu may be taken, in any liquid, three or four times a day, and a clyſter of thin ſtarch, with a tea-ſpoonful of laudanum in it, may be thrown up every night at bed-time, or oftener if it is found neceſſary.

Few things tend more to injure the conſtitution under a courſe of mercury than profuſe ſweating. On the old plan of adminiſtering mercury

mercury it was impoſſible to avoid this. The patient was ſhut up in a ſmall apartment; his bed was placed by the ſide of a large fire, and often between two fires; while every method was taken to prevent even the ſmalleſt particle of freſh air from having acceſs to him. Profuſe ſweats will never affect the patient, if he is kept in a proper temperature. His apartment ought to be large, and he may go from one room to another, unleſs the weather be uncommonly ſevere, or his conſtitution very delicate. The moſt likely way to avoid taking cold is to keep the body in an even temperature, and never ſuffer it to be too much heated: in ſhort, the ſafeſt way is, to avoid all extremes.

Should the patient, however, be ſeized with profuſe ſweats, he muſt not only be kept cool, but put on a nouriſhing diet, with a moderate allowance of wine, and take two tea-ſpoonfuls of Huxham's tincture of the bark in a glaſs of red port, three times a day. This medicine will be improved, by adding to every ounce of the tincture, a dram of the acid elixir of vitriol.

Mercury

Mercury ſometimes, though rarely, runs to the kidneys. When this happens, the patient muſt be kept warm, to promote the perſpiration; and he may take ſuch aſtringent medicines as have been already recommended in exceſſive diſcharges from the bowels or mouth.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

PATIENTS, who have been afflicted with the venereal diſeaſe, although they have received a complete cure, are apt to be alarmed at every trifling ſymptom which they think bears any reſemblance to that malady. Under this impreſſion I have known ſome go through a complete courſe of mercury for a pimple on the noſe; and others ruin their conſtitutions by ſwallowing drugs, ſold by adverti ſing quacks as infallible remedies for a diſeaſe under which they did not labour.

It is the misfortune of hypochondriacs to be continually haunted by one diſeaſe or another. If a perſon of this deſcription has the misfortune to get poxed, he ſeldom loſes ſight of it, or leaves off taking medicine till his conſtitution is deſtroyed. A young man belonging

ing to this claſs, after a ſlight infection, kept teaſing me for above a twelvemonth, from a perſuaſion that his noſe was daily growing thicker. At laſt I refuſed to ſee him, when he went to a quack, who indulged him in his whim, till he drained him of his laſt guinea, and then diſmiſſed him for a fool.

Women are ſtill more apt to be alarmed in this ſituation than men. Many of them believe that a perſon, once thoroughly infected, can never be radically cured. Under this perſuaſion they impute every ach, pain, or pimple, to the venereal poiſon lurking in the ſyſtem, and lead both themſelves and huſbands moſt miſerable lives. Humanity ſhould induce medical men to do every thing in their power to eradicate theſe hurtful notions. But this is, to my knowledge, not an eaſy taſk. The lady, whoſe caſe was mentioned in a former chapter, made herſelf and huſband both ſo unhappy, notwithſtanding all I could ſay to her, that I adviſed her at laſt to go to the late Mr. John Hunter, and take his opinion of her caſe. He told her ſhe was perfectly well. But even this did not fully ſatisfy her, till ſhe

brought forth at a birth two of the moſt healthy babes I ever ſaw.

Women, however, are more apt to have relics of this diſeaſe lurk about them than men. Their conſtitutions are not ſo able to undergo a thorough courſe of mercury; neither have they ſo much reſolution as men to perſiſt in its uſe for a ſufficient length of time. It is here the female patient generally miſſes her cure. A few days ago a man brought his wife to me to ſee if I thought her perfectly cured. On aſking ſome queſtions, I told him I had every reaſon to believe ſhe was well; but, according to my cuſtom, ſaid ſhe had better continue to take medicine for a few weeks longer, that no ground of ſuſpicion might remain. At this ſhe began to cry; ſaid ſhe had been taking mercury for above three years, and deſired to know when ſhe ſhould have done taking it. On inquiry, I found what ſhe ſaid was true, but that ſhe had never perſiſted in its uſe above three or four weeks at one time; but as ſoon as her mouth grew a little ſore, ſhe left it off, and when the ſymptoms reappeared, returned to its uſe again.

I told

I told her ſhe might keep taking mercury for twenty years in that way, and not be cured: That the only certain way to get well, was by perſiſting in the uſe of the ſpecific, not only till all the ſymptoms diſappeared, but for ſeveral weeks after. It is here the quack fails; and the haſty cure turns out to be no cure at all. Nor are the Faculty themſelves always ſufficiently aware of this trap. The idea of a quick cure is very ſoothing; and when the patient ſays, Why ſhould I take medicine after I am well? the phyſician often ſuffers him to go from under his care too ſoon. If the ſmalleſt ſpark is left, it will kindle up into a flame. Here it may be truly ſaid, "A LITTLE LEAVEN LEAVENETH THE WHOLE LUMP."

When the patient's conduct, or any doubtful ſymptoms, give the leaſt ground to ſuſpect that the poiſon ſtill lurks in the ſyſtem, the beſt plan, both for the ſatisfaction of the phyſician, and the ſafety of the patient, is to put him through a complete courſe of mercury, taking care at the ſame time that his conſtitution receives no injury. What will greatly tend to prevent the conſtitution from

being hurt by the mercury, and likewiſe promote its beneficial effects on the ſyſtem, will be a liberal uſe of the decoction of ſarſaparilla, or of the Liſbon diet-drink.

The venereal diſeaſe has, by ſome, been ſuppoſed to induce a variety of other complaints; while others deny that this ever happens. The truth is, that this, like other maladies which weaken the conſtitution, certainly prediſpoſes it to diſeaſe. But it does not follow, that the lues venerea will produce the ſmall pox, or any other diſeaſe that originates from a ſpecific infection. The ſmall pox or meaſles do not engender the rickets or ſcrofula; yet every practitioner knows that the latter often ſucceed to the former, eſpecially if they are of the malignant, or what are called the bad kind.

When the venereal diſeaſe ſeems to induce other maladies, there is generally reaſon to ſuſpect that there has exiſted in the conſtitution a prediſpoſition to ſuch diſorder, and that the venereal taint, by weakening the conſtitution, might act as a prediſpoſing cauſe in exciting the other malady. Every one knows that people afflicted with the ſcrofula are more liable

liable to diſeaſes of the lungs than thoſe who have no tendency that way; and that if ſymptoms of a conſumption appear in ſuch perſons, they ſeldom recover.

Mr. Bell, of Edinburgh, mentions a number of caſes, and ſays he is in poſſeſſion of many more, where the ſymptoms were occaſioned by the venereal poiſon lurking in the ſyſtem, though the diſeaſe aſſumed an appearance very different from that of the ſyphilis. In all the caſes, however, which he mentions, ſymptoms of a ſuſpicious nature, ſooner or later, ſeem to have made their appearance, as blotches on the ſkin, obſtinate ſores, or ill-conditioned ulcers, ſwelling of the joints, tumors with a fluctuation of matter in them, &c. When ſuch ſymptoms as theſe appear, and no adequate cauſe can be aſſigned for them, there is certainly ground to ſuſpect a lurking lues venerea.

In caſes where no ſuſpicious ſymptoms appear, but which do not yield to the uſual methods of treatment, the ſtricteſt inquiry ought to be made concerning the patient's former manner of life; and if it is found that he has ever been unfortunate in the venereal line,

line, and has received what is called an expeditious cure, there will be reaſon to ſuſpect a lurking lues as the cauſe of his diſorder, and the cure muſt be conducted accordingly.

It ſeems to be a queſtion, whether or no a ſpecific poiſon introduced into the ſyſtem can produce any other diſeaſe, except that from which the poiſon is taken. It is not my intention to go into difficult diſquiſitions on obſcure ſubjects; but I am inclined to think that a ſpecific poiſon may induce morbid affections very different, in their appearance, from the diſeaſe which gave riſe to them. I have more than once ſeen affections of the ſkin follow the inoculation of the ſmall pox, which no one, unacquainted with the circumſtances, would have ſuppoſed to have any connexion with that diſeaſe.

Any one converſant in the buſineſs of inoculation, muſt know that an eryſipelatous inflammation often ſucceeds to that operation, and goes regularly off before the ſmall pox make their appearance. Nay, I have known the meaſles make their appearance about the time when the ſmall pox were expected, go through their courſe, and the ſmall pox ſeem

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to wait till they had done ſo, and then appear. I do not ſay the matter of the ſmall pox actually produced the meaſles, but it would ſeem to have prediſpoſed the body to that diſeaſe.

It is well known that nurſes who attend patients in the ſmall pox are often much diſordered by it, eſpecially if they ſleep in the ſame bed with them. I have once or twice ſeen a putrid fever, which ſeemed to me to have been occaſioned by the nurſes lying night and day, for three weeks, in bed with children, who died of a very bad kind of ſmall pox. This conduct alſo hurts the patient.

A medical man of my acquaintance, in taking matter to inoculate a number of children, happened to cut his finger with a lancet covered with the matter of the ſmall pox. He wrapped it up, and thought no more of it, till about eight or nine days after, when he began to feel an unuſual ſenſation, or rather an irritation, about his heart, which he could not account for. Some degree of ſickneſs and nauſea enſued, and he was ſeized with a fainting fit. On recovering from this he had ſome warm drink, and was put to bed. Next morning a raſh appeared all over him, that had

had ſome reſemblance to the meaſles; but he thinks it kept out rather longer than the meaſles uſually do.

Though one would not venture to aſſert that this raſh was occaſioned by the pocky matter abſorbed from the wound, yet ſo many circumſtances concurred to make the gentleman think ſo, that, to this day, he cannot be perſuaded to the contrary. This gentleman had the ſmall pox in the natural way, when young, but has no recollection of having had the meaſles.

Whether or not a ſpecific poiſon, taken into the ſyſtem, at a time when it is not diſpoſed to take on the diſeaſe, will produce another, or induce any morbid affection whatever, are queſtions that we ſhall leave to the diſcuſſion of future phyſiologiſts.

Mr. Bell is of opinion, that where the poiſon of the ſyphilis exiſts in the ſyſtem, but not in ſufficient force to ſhew itſelf by the uſual and more obvious ſymptoms of the diſeaſe, it may, notwithſtanding, in various inſtances, be, capable of exciting a great deal of derangement, and even many diſeaſes which otherwiſe might not take place, and that it will more

eſpecially

eſpecially be apt to produce thoſe diſeaſes to which the conſtitution is prediſpoſed, or thoſe to which the patient is rendered liable by expoſure to particular occaſional cauſes. The diſeaſes induced by the venereal poiſon, of which he gives inſtances, are pthiſis, aſthma, rheumatiſm, dropſy, head-ache, epilepſy, and madneſs.

Diſeaſes ſucceeding to the lues venerea are not always occaſioned by the poiſon lurking in the ſyſtem; they are ſometimes the effect of the means uſed to expel that poiſon. Medicines, poſſeſſed of ſuch active powers as moſt preparations of mercury are, cannot be thrown into the ſtomach in large doſes, for any conſiderable length of time, without materially affecting that organ ſo neceſſary to the exiſtence of every animal.

Mercury will occaſionally hurt the ſtomach and bowels, even when it is adminiſtered with the greateſt care and attention; and it muſt be ſtill more pernicious where theſe are neglected. We may venture to aſſert, that not one in a hundred of thoſe who take mercury have it in their power to obſerve a proper regimen.

All active ſtimulants frequently applied to the organs of digeſtion deſtroy their power; hence the wine-bibber, and ſtill more the dram-drinker, generally loſes his appetite, and falls the early victim of indigeſtion. Few ſtimulants are more active than many of the preparations of mercury; indeed, ſome of them are ſo acrid as to be juſtly ranked among poiſons. Such edge-tools as theſe can ſeldom be long uſed with impunity. I have known few people who had taken great quantities of mercury, free from complaints of the ſtomach or bowels.

The lungs, as well as the ſtomach, are often hurt by means of mercury. The number of young men who die every year in London of conſumptions, brought on by the improper uſe of mercury, is a ſufficient proof of the baneful effects of that mineral on the lungs. But it is not the direct effect of mercury on the lungs that does the miſchief; it is owing to the uncertainty of our climate, and to the neceſſity many patients are under of expoſing themſelves to all weathers, even when the body is fully charged with mercury.

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The effects of mercury on the nervous ſyſtem are more direct; I have often ſeen paralytic affections brought on by the imprudent uſe of mercury, by which, even young men, have been rendered lame and miſerable for life. But the ſlow and leſs perceptible effects of mercury are more frequent, and likewiſe more hurtful; by them the beſt conſtitution may be undermined, and the moſt robuſt man reduced to an abſolute invalid, ſhivering at a breeze, and dragging out a wretched exiſtence under a load of nervous maladies, for which medicine knows no cure.

To obviate the ill effects of mercury on the ſtomach and bowels, it will be proper always to uſe the milder preparations, where they will ſucceed, in preference to the more acrid and ſtimulating. Where the more active preparations are found neceſſary, they ought to be adminiſtered in ſmall doſes; and when they excite fever, or occaſion great pain in the firſt paſſages, they ſhould be diſcontinued for ſome time, and their uſe reſumed after theſe affections are removed.

Few things are better calculated to prevent mercury from hurting the ſtomach and

bowels, than the proper uſe of Peruvian bark: it may either be taken in ſubſtance, tincture, or infuſion, and ought to be alternated with the mercury in ſuch a manner, as to prevent that mineral from tearing thoſe tender and delicate organs to pieces. The way in which I commonly give it, is in the doſe of two tea-ſpoonfuls of the compound tincture in a glaſs of the Tunbridge or Pyrmont water, three or four times a day; or it may be taken in common water, or wine.

For affections of the nerves, occaſioned by mercury, we would recommend, beſides tonic medicines, the cold bath, provided there is no particular weakneſs of the breaſt or bowels to forbid its uſe. Whenever cold bathing is recommended, it is always to be underſtood that we give the preference to ſalt-water, where it can be obtained. Indeed in all caſes of nervous debility, where the patient is able to bear the ſhock, ſea-bathing is the beſt medicine with which we are yet acquainted.

Though it muſt be acknowledged that mercury frequently hurts the conſtitution, yet it is often blamed where it is not in fault.

fault. People who have had occaſion to take mercury, are apt to impute all the aches and pains they feel afterwards, to this medicine lying in the body: I remember ſince the ſame prejudice prevailed with reſpect to bark, and believe them both to be equally unfounded. Some, indeed, are weak enough to imagine that the mercury lies in the bones, and never leaves them while the patient lives. This opinion the late Mr. John Hunter has taken ſome pains to refute: he ſays the mercury never enters the bones; and no man ever had more opportunities of inveſtigating that matter than himſelf.

That mercury muſt either kill or cure is another vulgar error which does conſiderable miſchief. Men are afraid to take a medicine that may terminate their exiſtence, and chuſe rather to endure a lingering diſeaſe, than riſk a ſudden death. By this groundleſs prejudice many have been deterred from taking mercury when it was the only medicine that could be of any ſervice to them. This prejudice, however, dies apace---moſt people now know that mercury, when properly adminiſtered, is both a ſafe and efficacious medicine.

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Many affect to decry the powers of mercury, while they are making fortunes by using it. This is a shameful practice and a dangerous one; mercury should never be concealed from the patient. This conduct, which even physicians too often affect, has sometimes serious consequences. I have known it more than once prove fatal. A medicine which, to be used with safety, requires a particular regimen, should never be concealed; and the practitioner who does so, whatever his motives may be, must excuse me for saying, that he sports with his patient's life.

Though some inconveniences may attend the administration of mercury, yet I know no medicine of equal value. It is useful in a great variety of disorders besides the lues venerea; and here every Tiro knows, that nothing can be done without it. From the infant of a week old to the veteran of fourscore, it may be given with safety and advantage; nor do I conceive how any man, at this day, could practise physic if he were deprived of its use.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

OF IMPOTENCE, OCCASIONED BY THE VENEREAL DISEASE, &c.

THERE is no idea more depreſſing to the human mind than that of not being able to propagate the ſpecies. I have known men actually criminate themſelves rather than lie under the imputation of impotence, and ſome will even riſk the peace of their families to prove that the fault is not on their ſide; yet numbers hazard the loſs of virility for a moment's gratification with an object whom they neither love nor eſteem.

Were the moſt avowed libertine to contemplate the victims of illicit love, as they are often ſeen by the Faculty, he would ſtand appalled at the view, and ſhrink from the tranſient enjoyment, which too often entails debility and loathſome diſeaſe on its votaries, and diſqualifies

diſqualifies them for ever from exerciſing the functions of manhood.

That impotence may proceed from debility there can be little doubt, and that this is often induced by exceſs of venery, few will be diſpoſed to deny; but, as far as my obſervation goes, debility is more frequently the effect of another vice incident to youth, which, while it is leſs natural, proves more deſtructive in its conſequence than even exceſs of venery. Men ſeldom go far wrong while they follow nature, but every deviation from her laws is pregnant with danger.

That the generative powers may be injured by obſtinate gleets, or what is called ſeminal weakneſs, is highly probable; but I have known men who, for more than twenty years, had laboured under this malady, yet had large families of ſeemingly healthy children. This, however, holds out no encouragement to others; what will not impair the generative faculties of one man, may totally deſtroy thoſe of another, and even tend to cut ſhort his life.

Not only the powers, but even the parts of generation, are frequently deſtroyed by the venereal diſeaſe. When this misfortune happens,

pens, they cannot be reſtored by medicine. In curing the venereal diſorder mercury will do wonders, but it cannot reſtore a loſt part: ſuch loſs, indeed, would ſeldom happen, if this medicine were properly applied in due time.

In moſt of the caſes that have come under my eye, where the powers of procreation had been deſtroyed by diſeaſe, there had either been total neglect, or very improper treatment. Some years ago a ſea-faring man called on me, on his return from a long voyage, to aſk my opinion of his caſe. He had few ſymptoms of the venereal diſeaſe, and theſe were eaſily cured; but his penis and ſcrotum formed only one maſs, and had coaleſced in ſuch a manner as to appear to me to be inſeparable. I adviſed him to conſult Mr. Pott and ſome other able ſurgeons, which he did; and their opinion was, that nothing could be done.

The ſtory he told me was, that when he left England he had a running, for which he had taken ſome medicine, and had carried as much out with him as was thought neceſſary for his cure. What uſe he made of it I do not know; but underſtood that during his

voyage to North America, he encountered much hard weather, and was expoſed to great cold and fatigue; that on his return to Europe, he landed in Spain, where he was adviſed to apply to a ſurgeon for ſome obſtructions in the urinary paſſages. This ſurgeon, inſtead of having recourſe to the uſe of bougies and other mild methods for removing the obſtruction, laid open the urethra, and then left the freſh wound and ſcrotum to grow together.

The only comment I ſhall make upon this caſe is, to point out the danger of going to ſea with the venereal diſeaſe uncured. Had this gentleman ſtaid at home, or been ſo fortunate as to fall into ſkilful hands abroad, in all probability he would not have been deprived of his powers of procreation: what he did, however, is done every day, and, we have reaſon to fear, too often with ſimilar conſequences. Surgeons are often too free with the knife; it ſhould never be uſed but in caſes of abſolute neceſſity, and then only by ſkilful hands.

I have, indeed, known the penis very nearly deſtroyed by eroſion; but when the ſores were kept thoroughly clean, and the mercury thrown in in ſufficient quantities, the eroſion

of

of the penis was ſtopped, and what remained, though ſometimes not above an inch, became perfectly ſound, and, for any thing I know, remained ſo during the patient's life.

Inſtances of impotence occur where the perſon never was afflicted with the venereal diſeaſe, and where it is very difficult to aſſign any cauſe for the decay of thoſe parts deſtined for the propagation of the ſpecies. The late Mr. John Hunter mentions ſeveral caſes where the teſticles had gradually waſted away, without any apparent cauſe. This generally began in one of the teſticles, and after that was deſtroyed, it ſeized the other, which melted away in the ſame manner, without affecting the health of the patient, or admitting of any relief from medicine.

The ſame author mentions the caſe of a very young gentleman, one of whoſe teſticles waſted entirely away after a gonorrhæa, which was attended both with a ſwelled teſticle and bubo. This evidently proceeded from the venereal affection.

The ingenious author, mentioned above, gives ſeveral examples of impotence from affections of the mind; and it muſt be acknow-

ledged, that the mind has much to do in this buſineſs. Fear, ſhame, anxiety, diſlike of the object, and many other affections of the mind, will take away the venereal appetite, and produce a temporary impotence. I was once conſulted in a caſe of ſuppoſed impotence by a healthy-looking gentleman, who, to fulfil the dying requeſt of his brother, married his widow. I had ſufficient reaſon to believe that this gentleman's impotency, as he was pleaſed to call it, did not proceed from want of power, but want of love to the object.

Impotence, ariſing from natural defects, or the deſtruction of the parts by diſeaſe, ſeldom admits of any aſſiſtance from medicine. When it proceeds from debility, occaſioned by exceſſive evacuations, the uſe of tonics, as the Peruvian bark and ſteel, are indicated, and they may be adminiſtered in various forms with advantage. The chalybeate waters, as thoſe of Tunbridge, Pyrmont, &c. will likewiſe prove beneficial; but what we would chiefly recommend is the cold bath, eſpecially bathing in ſalt water.

When the ſyſtem is exceſſively irritable, and the conſtitution is waſted by involuntary emiſſions

emiſſions during the night, I would recommend opium; from half a grain to a whole grain may be taken at bed time. If this has not the deſired effect, the doſe may be increaſed to a grain and a half, or two grains. Its uſe ought to be accompanied with tonics, and corroborating medicines.

For the cure of unnatural pollutions, I always recommend matrimony. This, with regular living, and the uſe of the cold bath, ſeldom proves unſucceſsful. But when I recommend matrimony, I would adviſe every man to marry the woman he loves. When this is not the caſe, ſatiety and diſguſt will ſucceed, and the unhappy huſband, in the vigour of life, may, by miſtake, impute his want of ardour for the connubial enjoyments to impotency.

A SUM-

A SUMMARY VIEW

OF THE

MOST IMPORTANT DOCTRINES CONTAINED IN THE PRECEDING PAGES.

I. FEW things would have a more direct tendency to render the venereal diſeaſe leſs frequent than a ſtrictly moral education.

II. It would be of great importance, not only in the prevention of this, but of many other diſeaſes, to impreſs the young mind with a due ſenſe of the value of health.

III. Though a good conſtitution ought to be the firſt object in the education of youth, it is generally made the laſt, and is often totally diſregarded.

IV. A young man ſhould be taught to believe that all his proſpects in life depend upon health, and that every view of happineſs vaniſhes with the loſs of this valuable treaſure.

V. The importance of cleanlineſs ought likewiſe to be ſtrongly impreſſed on the young mind. This, though not ranked among the cardinal virtues, is nearly allied to them.

VI. Nor ought leſs attention to be paid to ſobriety. Men are moſt apt to go aſtray, when leaſt able to conduct themſelves, ſo as to avoid danger.

VII. A vegetable diet, an open body, and the free uſe of diluting liquors, will often carry off a gonorrhœa without the uſe of medicine.

VII.

VIII. Where the above regimen does not ſucceed, recourſe may be had to aſtringent injections, taking care, during their uſe, to keep down the inflammatory ſymptoms by cooling purges and diluting diet.

IX. Obſtructions of the urinary paſſages are generally relieved by the uſe of bougies. If properly made, they may be applied by any perſon of common underſtanding.

X. A bubo will generally be relieved by emollient fomentations, ſoft poultices, and bleeding with leeches.

XI. A ſwelled teſticle requires nearly the ſame method of treatment, unleſs where the intention is to diſcuſs both, in which caſe repellents ought to be uſed.

XII. A gleet uſually yields to aſtringent injections, tonic medicines, and the cold bath. When theſe do not ſucceed, recourſe muſt be had to ſtimulating injections, ſuch as are recommended in the Appendix.

XIII. A chordee requires diluents, and the uſe of opium.

XIV. Warts and excreſcences require the application of mild cauſtics and eſcarotics, as the powder of Savin, &c.

XV. The pox is generally introduced by means of a chancre, which, if properly treated, will ſeldom infect the ſyſtem.

XVI. The only method to prevent a chancre from communicating the poiſon to the ſyſtem, is the timely and proper uſe of mercury.

XVII. Chancres ought never to be haſtily dried up,

up, but rather kept open, till the poiſon is extinguiſhed by mercury.

XVIII. The mouth ſhould be made ſore with mercury, and kept ſo for ſome time; but it never ought to be given in ſuch quantities as to excite a violent ſalivation.

XIX. A chancre, concealed under the prepuce, is often productive of much miſchief. When it cannot be kept clean, it ought to be laid open.

XX. A chancre, when laid open, will often heal in a few days without the uſe of mercury, though it would not before under its uſe.

XXI. The glans, if poſſible, ſhould be uncovered every day, and the chancres waſhed with milk and water a little warm.

XXII. Expoſure to cold, and improper regimen, under a mercurial courſe, tend greatly to retard the cure, and often endanger the patient's life.

XXIII. As the ſuppuration of buboes does not ſeem to accelerate the cure of the venereal diſeaſe, it is proper always to diſcuſs them when it can be done.

XXIV. Venereal ulcers and blotches cannot be cured without mercury, which muſt be applied according to the urgency of the ſymptoms.

XXV. When venereal ſores grow worſe under the uſe of mercury *, it muſt be diſcontinued, and the patient

* A case at present under my care shews the propriety of this rule in the strongest point of light. A young gentleman, in a provincial city, had been seventeen weeks under a course of mercury

patient put on a courſe of bark and reſtorative diet.

XXVI. When the venereal virus faſtens on the bones, and produces nodes, &c., it may ſtill be removed by perſiſting, for a ſufficient length of time, in the uſe of ſome active preparation of mercury.

XXVII. When the venereal diſeaſe affects the organs of ſenſe, as the eyes, ears, &c., it cannot be removed without the uſe of mercury.

XXVIII. When children are born with ſymptoms of the venereal diſeaſe upon them, they may be cured by the proper application of mercury, both to the infant and nurſe.

XXIX. Diſeaſes which reſemble the lues venerea, as the ſivvins or ſibbins. &c., may be cured by mercury applied in the ſame manner as for the lues.

XXX. Opium is of great ſervice in appeaſing many of the moſt urgent ſymptoms of lues venerea, as well as in making mercury ſit more eaſily on the ſtomach.

cury for chancres on the glans and prepuce. He was reduced so low that his life was despaired of; and he was thought unable to bear a journey to town. He was, however, brought by short stages, and I was consulted. My advice was to leave off the use of mercury, to take a tea-spoonful of the compound tincture of Peruvian bark four times a day, to drink daily a wine-bottle of the Lisbon diet-drink, to take nourishing diet, and to drink a few glasses of generous wine every day. The consequence is, that in less than six weeks his appetite, health, and spirits are restored, and his sores, which have only been kept clean, are nearly all healed.

XXXI. When the nurſe gives the diſeaſe to an infant, or the infant to the nurſe, both may be cured by the proper application of mercury.

XXXII. Perſons about to be married, ought to be very circumſpect with regard to their ſituation, otherwiſe they may tranſmit this baneful diſeaſe to their progeny.

XXXIII. Women labouring under the venereal diſeaſe, are very liable to have abortions, to prevent which mercury is the proper medicine.

XXXIV. In conſtitutions deeply affected with the ſcurvy, mercury ought to be adminiſtered with the greateſt caution. Where that is not attended to, ſome very untoward ſymptoms may enſue.

XXXV. In ſcrofulous habits the lues always proves obſtinate, and requires more mercury than in conſtitutions free from that taint.

XXXVI. Mercury may be given for any length of time without curing the lues, if it is not given in ſuch a way as thoroughly to ſaturate the ſyſtem.

XXXVII. Complaints ſucceeding to the venereal diſeaſe are not always owing to that malady, but to the means uſed to expel it.

XXXVIII. That mercury lies in the bones, is denied by Mr. John Hunter, and is, I believe, a vulgar error.

XXXIX. That mercury hurts the ſtomach and bowels, when improperly uſed, is, I am afraid, often too true.

XL.

XL. When impotency is the effect of the lues venerea, it is generally owing, either to the ignorance of the practitioner, or the irregularity of the patient.

XLI. The greateſt circumſpection is neceſſary in the choice of a wet-nurſe in and near great towns.

XLII. A woman may have her health ruined by giving ſuck to an infant born of diſſipated parents.

XLIII. The ſibbens, as well as the lues, may be communicated by the mother or nurſe.

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APPENDIX.

THE different forms and preparations of medicine, referred to in the preceding pages, are here brought together, ſo as to appear in a narrower point of view. Several others, not mentioned, are alſo added, that the patient may have an opportunity of ſelecting ſuch as he thinks beſt ſuited to his caſe. Some preſcriptions, inſerted in the body of the book, are again brought forward here, either that they may appear at more length, or be inſerted under the reſpective heads to which they belong, as Injections, Decoctions, &c.

Phyſicians ſtill perſiſting in the practice of writing their preſcriptions in Latin, affords a ſtrong proof of the difficulty with which old cuſtoms are left off. Thoſe who write books in plain Engliſh, ſtill give their preſcriptions in an unknown tongue; as if a ſcrap of Latin could operate like a taliſman, or have the power of a charm. This conduct is not only ridiculous, it is dangerous. The perſons employed in making up medical preſcriptions are, generally ſpeaking, very idle, and very ignorant. By this I do not mean to throw any reflection on apothecaries. I ſee no reaſon why an apothecary may not be as learned a man as a phyſician; but I know this, that a man may

may go to his ſhop a hundred times before he finds him there. The apothecary generally acts as a phyſician, and leaves the ſhop to the care of his boy.

Did patients know who compoſe the draughts they ſwallow, they would take them with fear and trembling. I ſeldom give a medicine without ſeeing it made up, and never to a venereal patient; becauſe I know that here the cure depends ſolely on the quality of the medicine, and not on the patient's imagination. Were phyſicians, in general, to follow this plan, their art would prove more beneficial to mankind. The doctor would not be the tool of the apothecary, nor the patient the dupe of both. While the apothecary can recommend the phyſician, the infamous trade of cramming patients with drugs will be carried on, to the diſgrace of medicine, and the deſtruction of mankind.

INJECTIONS FOR THE CURE OF GONORRHŒA.

I. Take of vitriolated zinc, commonly called white vitriol, half a dram: diſſolve it in a pint of water.

In the early ſtage of a gonorrhœa, we know of no better injection than this. If uſed ſufficiently often, not leſs than five or ſix times a day, it will generally remove the diſeaſe very ſpeedily. It is not, however, ſo proper in the more advanced periods of the complaint.

plaint. A ſlight degree of pain ought to follow its uſe; but if it produces much, it ſhould be diluted with water. Five or ſix drops of Goulard's extract, added to a tea-cupful of this ſolution, renders it more ſedative, and conſequently a better medicine, where there is great irritation, or the parts are inflamed.

II. Take ſugar of lead, half a dram: diſſolve in half a pint of water.

III. Take extract of lead, thirty drops: mix with half a pint of water.

When there is great pain and irritation, it is ſometimes neceſſary to uſe opiate injections.

IV. Diſſolve a dram of purified opium in half a pint of water; or, add to the ſame quantity of water half an ounce of the tincture of opium.

When the diſcharge appears to be continued from relaxation, or flaccidity of the veſſels, the following injection will be found uſeful:

V. Take balſam of capivi, half an ounce: rub with the yolk of an egg, and, by degrees, add half a pint of roſe-water.

A ſtimulant injection for diſcharges of long continuance, and gleets:

VI. Take muriated mercury, commonly called corroſive ſublimate, one grain: diſſolve in half a pint of roſe-water.

The powers of this medicine may be heightened or diminiſhed, by leſſening or increaſing the quantity of water in which it is diſſolved: but the above proportion is as ſtrong as moſt patients are able to bear.

VII.

VII. Take of acetated copper, or verdigreaſe, two drams: diſſolve in volatile alkali, one ounce.

This is an excellent form of injection; but ſome care is requiſite in the application of it. From twelve to twenty drops may be added to half a pint of water.

Where internal aſtringents are required, the following will be found uſeful:

VIII. Tincture of Catechu, or compound tincture of the Peruvian bark: of either of theſe, a tea-ſpoonful or two may be taken in a glaſs of wine, three or four times a day. Should the patient prefer pills, I know of none better than thoſe made of equal parts of prepared iron and extract of bark, with a ſufficient quantity of oil of carrui. One may be taken three or four times a day.

When it is neceſſary to keep the body open and cool, which is always the caſe in a virulent gonorrhœa, eſpecially during the uſe of injections, I would recommend the electuary mentioned in the Domeſtic Medicine. But what I chiefly uſe now, with that intention, is the following powder:

IX. Take powdered gum arabic, and cream of tartar, each an ounce and a half; jalap, in powder, two drams: mix them, and give a tea-ſpoonful in any liquid, as often as is found neceſſary to keep the body gently open. To ſave trouble, I generally now cauſe theſe powders to be made into an electuary with common ſyrup, and deſire the patient to take a tea-ſpoonful as often as he finds it neceſſary.

When

When the pain and irritation in paſſing water is very great, the patient will find relief from drinking plentifully of linſeed tea. It may be infuſed with liquorice-root, and drank a little warm.

A very common and troubleſome ſymptom of the gonorrhœa is a chordee. This the following pill commonly relieves, probably by taking off the general tendency to ſpaſm:

X. Take powdered opium, one grain; powdered antimony, four grains; crumbs of bread, as much as will make them into a pill: to be taken at bed-time.

MEDICINES USED IN THE CURE OF THE LUES VENEREA.

Mercury, the only ſpecific * hitherto diſcovered for the cure of this diſeaſe, is adminiſtered both externally and internally. The former, which is by far the ſafeſt and the beſt, when it can be adminiſtered with conveniency, conſiſts in the application of the

* We every day hear that the lues venerea has been cured by medicines that did not contain a single grain of mercury. There is reason, however, to ſuspect, that these cures are, like those of the bite of a mad dog, only performed where the infection had never been communicated. Among the medicines puffed off, at present, for curing the lues venerea, is Velno's Vegetable Syrup: I have seen sufficient proofs of the inefficacy of this medicine to be able to declare, that it will not cure the lues venerea.

ſpecific in form of ointment to ſome part of the ſurface of the body; or in form of vapour to the whole of it at once. For internal uſe a variety of preparations have been deviſed, of which ſome of the moſt approved ſhall be here inſerted.

XI. Of the ſtrong mercurial ointment, from half a dram to a dram may be rubbed every evening on the inner ſide of the leg or thigh for half an hour, or till it is abſorbed. The friction muſt be continued till the mouth becomes ſore, and even for ſome time after the ſymptoms of the diſorder have diſappeared. The part into which the mercury is rubbed, ſhould be waſhed with ſoap and water, and carefully dried, each time, before the friction is commenced.

XII. Where elegance is an object, an ointment without colour may be made, by rubbing two drams of the white precipitate, or of calomel, with an ounce of hog's lard, and uſing it as the former.

A phyſician of Naples is ſaid to have cured five thouſand patients by rubbing half a dram of ointment into the ſoles of their feet at bed-time, made of hog's lard and corroſive ſublimate, an ounce of the former to a dram of the latter. I have likewiſe uſed this ointment with ſucceſs.

When mercury is taken internally, it is uſually given in form of pill. The beſt way ſeems to be, to take the whole quantity, for the day, at bed-time; it then paſſes along with the food, and ſeems to diſturb the bowels leſs than when taken at different times through the day.

The

The common mercurial pill of both the London and Edinburgh diſpenſatories are made of the crude mercury, or quickſilver, comminuted, or rubbed up with various ingredients, as conſerve of roſes, &c. and given from three to four or five ordinary ſized pills in the courſe of a day. Some practitioners prefer theſe pills to every other preparation of mercury; but what I more frequently uſe, are pills made of one or other of the following preparations of mercury, and corrected with opium as circumſtances may require.

XIII. Take of calomel, properly prepared, one dram; conſerve of hips, or roſes, a ſufficient quantity: make into forty pills. Two or three may be taken at bed-time. Should they gripe, ten grains of opium may be added to the maſs when prepared.

XIV. Take of mild muriated mercury, one dram; aromatic confection, or confection of opium, a ſufficient quantity to form a maſs of proper conſiſtence for pills: to be corrected and divided as above, and taken in the ſame manner. There is not any preparation of mercury, that I have tried, ſeems to poſſeſs more active antivenereal powers, or to diſturb the conſtitution leſs than this.

XV. Take of calcined mercury, half a dram; powdered opium, ten grains; extract of liquorice, a ſufficient quantity: divide into twenty-four pills. Take one at bed-time. Few conſtitutions will bear more than two. This was the favourite preparation of the late celebrated John Hunter.

The following compoſition, which is well known by the name of Plummer's Pill, is reckoned peculiarly uſeful in venereal affections of the ſkin, as well as cutaneous complaints ariſing from other cauſes.

XVI. Take of calomel, and the golden ſulphur of antimony, each one dram; extract of liquorice, enough to form a maſs for pills: divide into forty-eight pills. Two may be taken at night, and one next morning, increaſing the doſe according to circumſtances.

When the more active preparations of mercury are deemed neceſſary, the corroſive ſublimate may be uſed in the following manner:

XVII. Take of muriated mercury, or corroſive ſublimate, ten grains: diſſolve in a pint of proof ſpirits. Of this ſolution, two or three table-ſpoonfuls may be taken daily. It ought never to be given on an empty ſtomach.

Some adminiſter the ſublimate in form of pill; but as it is apt to hurt the bowels, when taken in this way, I always give it in ſolution.

As decoctions of various kinds have been ſuppoſed to aſſiſt in the cure of lues venerea, or, at leaſt, to prevent the mercury from hurting the ſtomach and bowels, ſome of the moſt approved forms are ſubjoined:

XVIII. Take of ſarſaparilla, bruiſed, three ounces; infuſe by the fire, in two quarts of water, for twelve hours; then gently boil away to about one half: a little

little ſliced liquorice-root may be added, juſt before the boiling is finiſhed.

This ſimple decoction ſeems to act chiefly by affording a mild nouriſhment. Even in that point of view it is of great uſe during a mercurial courſe. The whole quantity here mentioned may be uſed in the courſe of twenty-four hours, and it ſhould be prepared freſh daily.

The decoction of guiacum may be made as follows:

XIX. Take of guiacum raſpings, ſix ounces; ſhavings of ſaſſafras, four ounces: boil in ſix quarts of water to four, adding, towards the end, an ounce of ſliced liquorice-root.

Two pints of this decoction may be uſed daily. By ſome, guaiacum is ſuppoſed to aſſiſt greatly in the cure of lues venerea. The ſuperior effects of mercury, however, have, in a great meaſure, cauſed it to be laid aſide. In ſome peculiar conſtitutions, indeed, it ſeems to aſſiſt the powers of mercury.

The decoction of mezereon may be made as follows:

XX. Take bark of mezereon-root, one ounce: boil it in three quarts of water to two, adding, towards the end, a little liquorice.

This is a warm ſtimulating medicine, of which from a pint to a quart may be taken daily.

For making the Liſbon diet-drink there are many forms; the moſt common is as under:

XXI. Take of ſarſaparilla,

White

White and red ſaunders, each three ounces;

Liquorice and mezereon-root, of each half an ounce;

Wood of rhodium, and ſaſſafras, each one ounce;

Crude antimony *, two ounces:

Mix and infuſe the whole in four quarts of boiling water, for twenty-four hours; then boil to half the quantity, and ſtrain. Of this, from a pint to a quart may be uſed daily.

When the mouth is much affected, and very painful, from a violent ſalivation, the following waſh may be uſed with advantage:

XXII. Take of borax, one ounce: diſſolve it in a pint of boiling water, and add two ounces of honey.

The mouth may be frequently waſhed with this a little warm.

To remove thoſe warts which ſometimes remain after gonorrhœa, I have generally found one of the following ſucceed:

XXIII. Take of corroſive ſublimate, and crude ſal armoniac, each half an ounce: diſſolve in four ounces of water.

The warts to be occaſionally touched with this.

XXIV. Take of powdered ſavin, two drams; red precipitate, and corroſive ſublimate, of each one dram.

* The antimony ought to be made into what is called a Nodule, or tied in a bag, otherwise the decoction will be of a disagreeable colour, and look dirty.

A little

A little of this powder may be applied frequently to the warts.

To dreſs venereal ſores, ſome of the following may be uſed:

XXV. Take of baſilicon ointment, two ounces; red precipitate, two drams: mix them.

XXVI. Take of baſilicon ointment, two ounces; powdered verdigreaſe, one ſcruple: mix them.

XXVII. Ointment of nitrated mercury, commonly called *unguentum citrinum*, mixed with three or four times its weight of hog's lard, generally anſwers this purpoſe very well.

OF PREVENTIVES.

It has been already obſerved, that the ſafeſt preventive, and the moſt to be depended on, is a ſolution of ſoap properly uſed.

Spirits are preferred by ſome, and all kinds of ſpirits anſwer equally well.

The following forms have been thought uſeful as preventive lotions:

XXVIII. Take of corroſive ſublimate, one dram: mix gradually, by rubbing in a mortar, with two pints of freſh-made lime-water. Let it ſubſide, and pour off the clear liquor for uſe. Keep it in a bottle carefully ſtopped.

XXIX.

XXIX. Freſh-prepared lime-water.

XXX. A few drops of cauſtic alkali, or ſoap lies, mixed with common water.

This ſhould always be applied to the tongue before it is uſed, to determine its ſtrength, which is known by its removing the moiſture, without occaſioning pain. This form is the moſt convenient, as a quantity, ſufficient to ſerve for a conſiderable time, may be carried in the pocket, and uſed occaſionally.

FINIS.